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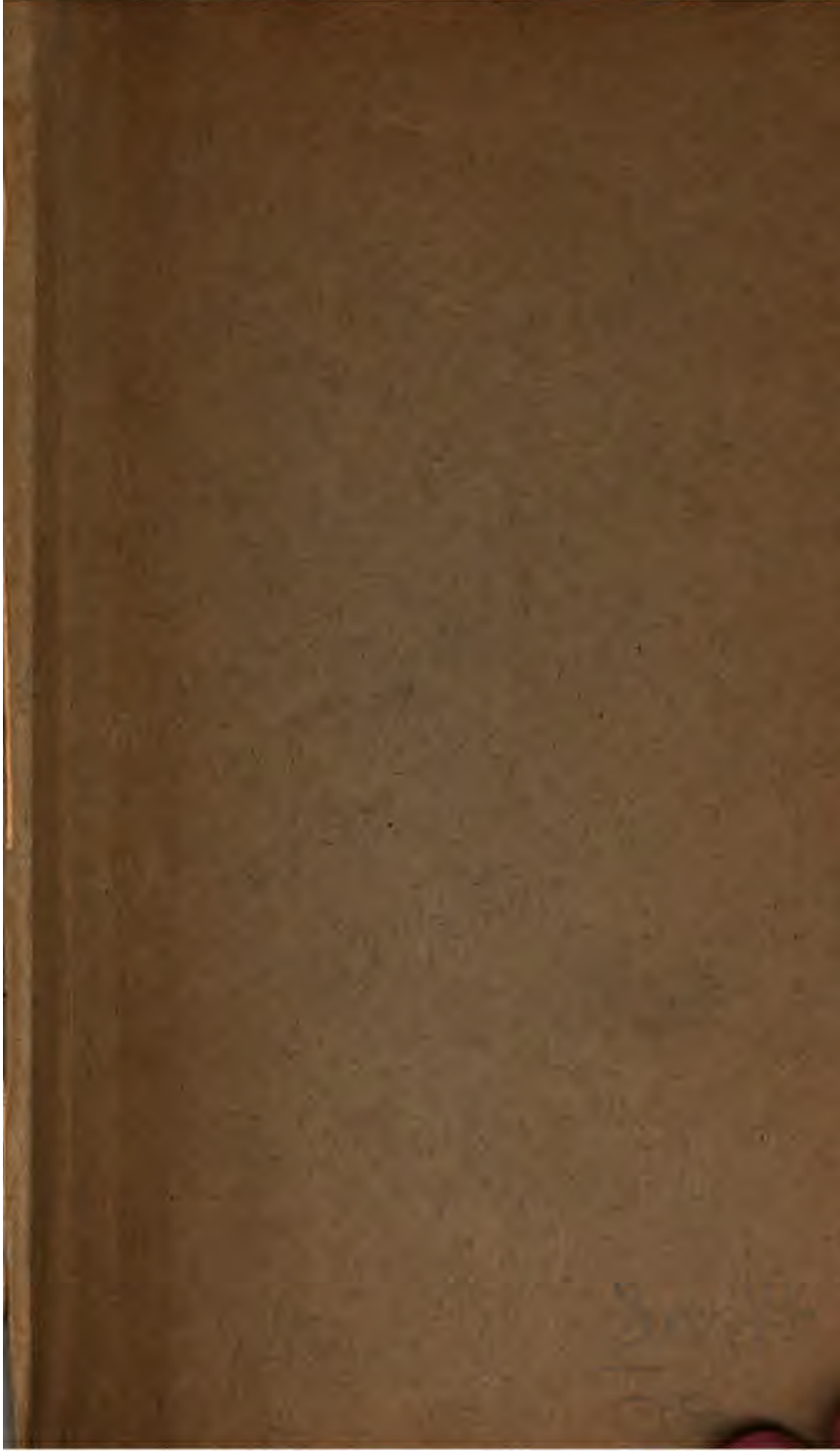
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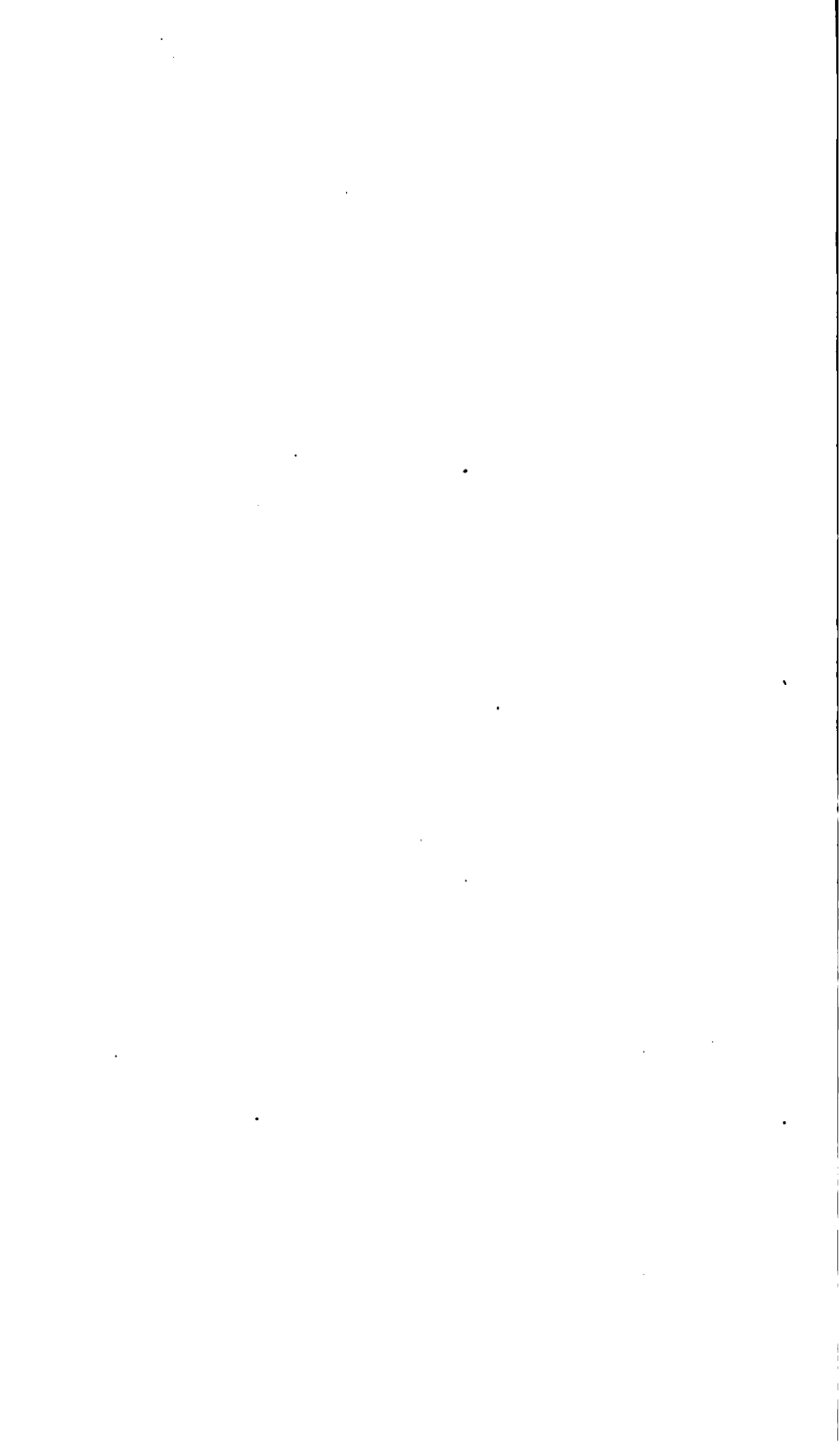
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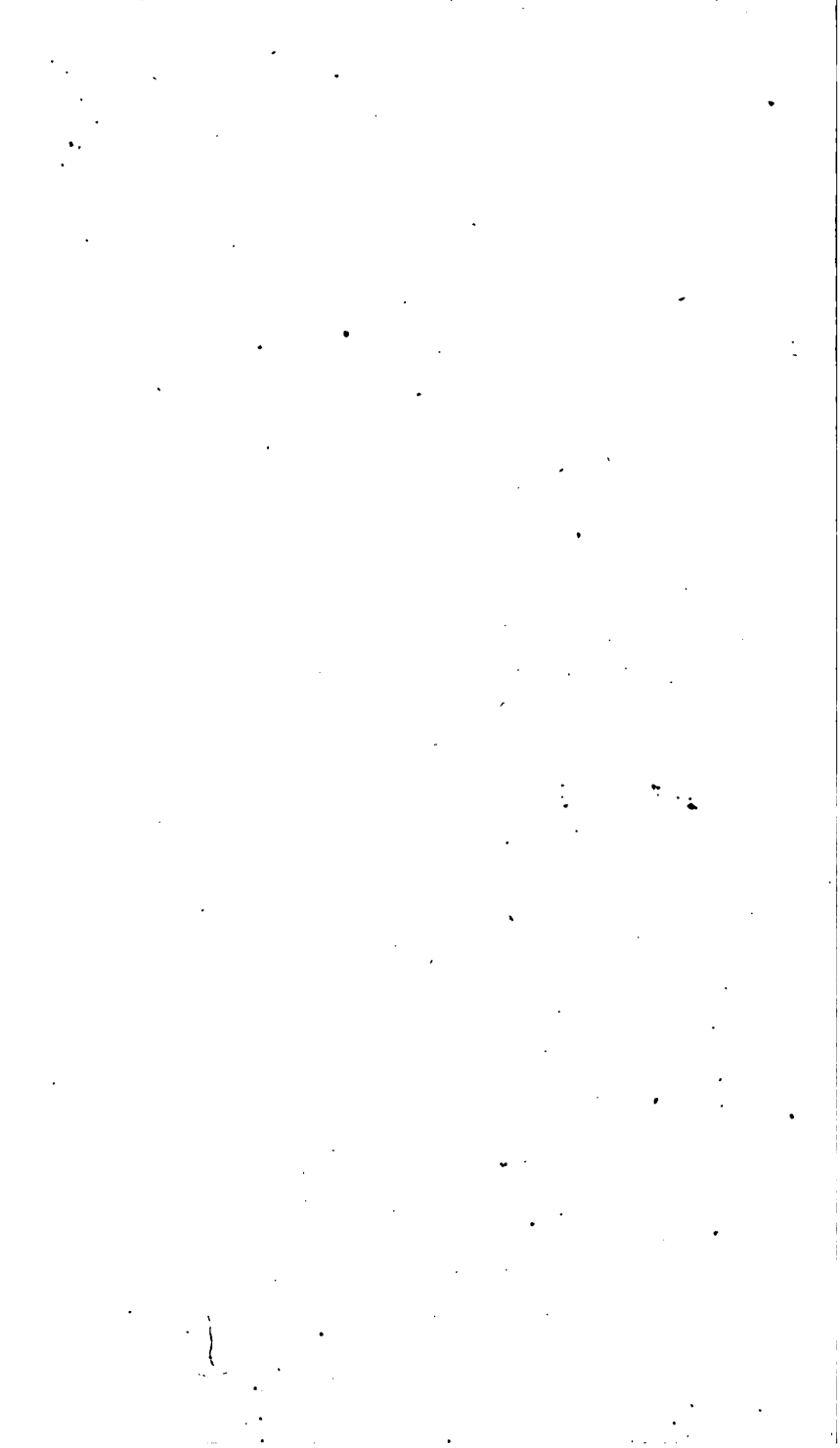






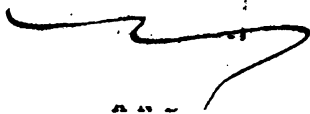






*The Hibernian Patriot:*  
 Being a COLLECTION of the  
**DRAPIER'S**  
**LETTERS**  
 TO THE  
**PEOPLE OF IRELAND,**  
 CONCERNING  
~~WOOD'S~~ Brass Half-Pence.

*Worthington G. Ford*



REASONS for the People of IRELAND's  
 refusing it.

To which are added, POEMS and SONGS  
 relating to the same Subject.

*Jonathan Swift*

*O thou, whatever Title please thine Ear,  
 Dean, Drapier, B'ckerstaff, or Gulliver?  
 Whether thou chuse Cervantes' ferrous Air,  
 Or laugh and shake in Rabelais easy Chair,  
 Or praise the Court, or magnify Mankind,  
 Or thy griev'd Country's Copper Chains unbind,  
 From thy Bœotia tho' her Pow'r retires,  
 Grieve not, my SWIFT, at ought our Realm acquires.*

DUNCIAD.

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*R.A.H.*

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T H E  
P R E F A C E.

**T**HE Greatest Part of the following Papers was written by a Gentleman (who styled himself the *Drapier*) for the Preservation of his Fellow Subjects; the Love for his Country, and not a Desire of Fame, or Applause from the Vulgar, induced him to publish them to the World: And every one was so sensible not only of this, but also of his Capacity to serve the Nation, that they testified their Acknowledgment of it in the most publick Manner, and when *Three Hundred Pounds Ster.* were offered by Proclamation of the Government, to any faithful Subject that would discover the Au-  
A  
thor,

## The P R E F A C E.

thor, not one single Person was induced by it to inform against him.

The Style of the Letters is peculiarly adapted to the Occasion; for, as they are written for the Benefit of the whole People of *Ireland*, their Style, tho' plain and easy, never sinks into the Languid; and tho' not fill'd with Metaphors or high Expressions, falls not so low as to offend, or grate the Ears of the politest Reader. He has couched the strongest Reasoning, in the most familiar Phrases, expos'd the Villany of *Wood* and his *Projectors*, with Arguments of undeniable Force; and shewn with the utmost Perspicuity, the Necessity the Nation was under, not to receive them. I shall say no more of his Character than this, that, as there never was any Project contrived of greater Villany, any Roguery more cunningly carried on, better supported, or which tended more to the Ruin and entire Subversion of the Liberties, and Credit of a whole Nation; so there was never any *Patriot* of a greater Capacity for detecting such a villanous Attempt, and searching into the *Præcipuum Mobile* of this Cheat; or who supported a sinking Kingdom, and asserted the Liberties of a People with greater Zeal and Affection.

The

## The P R E F A C E.

The Occasion of their appearing in Print, was this. It having been many Years, since *Copper-Halfpence* had been coined in this Kingdom, and many Counterfeits, passing under the Name of *Raps*, several Applications were made to *England*, that this Kingdom might have Liberty to coin new ones, but all without Success. At last, one Mr. *Wood*, an *Englishman*, and a *Hard-ware Dealer*, procured a Patent under his Majesty's Broad Seal, to coin *Fourscore and ten Thousand Pounds in Copper*, for the Use of this Kingdom. But, Mr. *Wood* made his *Halfpence* so small, and of such base Metal, that, the whole *Ninety Thousand Pounds* were not worth real Value, more than *Eight or Nine*. This, the whole Nation was immediately sensible of; and perceived, that it might give Occasion, not only for coining of Counterfeits, by some self-interested *Braziers* in this Kingdom, and our Neighbours the *Dutch*, but also, that Mr. *Wood* easily might, and willingly would, impose upon us, four times the Sum his Patent allowed him. This was the Reason, the Kingdom refused to admit the *Copper Halfpence* as current Money. Mr. *Wood* seeing all his Expectations frustrated, applies to his *Great Friends* at Court, and orders several threatening Expressions to be printed in the

## The P R E F A C E.

publick News-papers, which put the whole Nation under dismal Apprehensions, which they could not readily free themselves from, being ignorant of how large an Extent the Prerogative of his Majesty might be, in this Case.

Thus unhappily circumstanc'd was the Nation, when the following Letters were writ; and tho' now by his Assertion, and some other worthy *Patriots* glorious Defence of the Liberties of their Country, the villanous Project of Mr. *Wood* is entirely crush'd, the Dread of such *base Copper Half-pence* vanish'd, and the Trade of the Kingdom settled in a more flourishing Condition than it has been for some Time past; yet a Collection of the following Papers is necessary and proper to be kept by all People, not only as the most durable Memorial of the imminent Danger the Nation was involved in, and a Testimony of our Gratitude to those worthy Gentlemen; but likewise as the best and strongest Arguments that can be offer'd against an Invasion of our Liberties this Way, should *another Wood* ever have Interest enough to obtain a Patent from His Majesty for the Coinage of *Brass Money*.

[The SEASONABLE ADVICE to the Grand Jury is as remarkable a Defence of Private Liberty

## The P R E F A C E.

erty as the LETTERS are of Publick. Mr. *Harbin*, it seems, being taken up for printing the *Drapier's* Fourth Letter, the Night before the *Grand Jury* were to find the Bill, this SEASONABLE ADVICE was by some means or other conveyed to the Hands of each of them. It had the same Effect upon them that, I am persuaded, it will have on every Reader, convinced them of the Innocency of the Printer, or the Unjustness of the Bill; accordingly they unanimously threw it out. The Lord Chief Justice *Whiteshead* being then on the Bench sent them back several Times, persuading them to change their Verdict. But finding them Men of untractable Reason, at length discharged them. Whether his Lordship did not want to be better instructed, as much as the *Jury*, the following EXTRACT from the House of Lords will enable the Reader to determine.]

And, now I beg Leave to mention the other Papers inserted in this Collection. The CONSIDERATIONS and the REASONS were written by a Gentleman, whom nothing could deter from Supporting the Credit and Liberty of his Country: His Style has a stately Smoothness, and he has given the Subject the Colour it was naturally dispos'd to bear; his Reasoning is so strong,  
his



## The P R E F A C E.

his Positions so just, and Conclusions undeniable, that no Pen but the DRAPIER'S could have writ like his. *Prometheus* is a Master-Piece; and tho' the Liberty and Learning of *Rome* and *Athens* expired together; yet the Genius of poor *Ireland* arose when *its Liberty was almost set, and was resolved to expire like the Swan, in a Song.*

And, now I must humbly ask Pardon for not inserting the Letters to the Right Honourable ——— and the *Defence of the Conduct of the People of Ireland*, the first being not of that universal Concern as the other PAPERS are; and the latter the Arguments used by the Author of the CONSIDERATIONS, done by a less ingenious Hand, and set in a worse Light.

The Reason of the LETTERS appearing now in Print, was the Desire of some ingenious Gentlemen, who, out of Love to their Country, and Gratitude to the Memory of the *Drapier*, have associated themselves into a Club, and call'd it by that TRULY WORTHY PATRIOT'S NAME.



A  
L E T T E R  
T O T H E

*Shop-Keepers, Tradesmen, Farmers,*

A N D

Common-People of IRELAND;

Concerning The

BRASS HALF-PENCE

Coined by Mr. *W O O D*,

With a D E S I G N to have them Pass in this  
K I N G D O M.

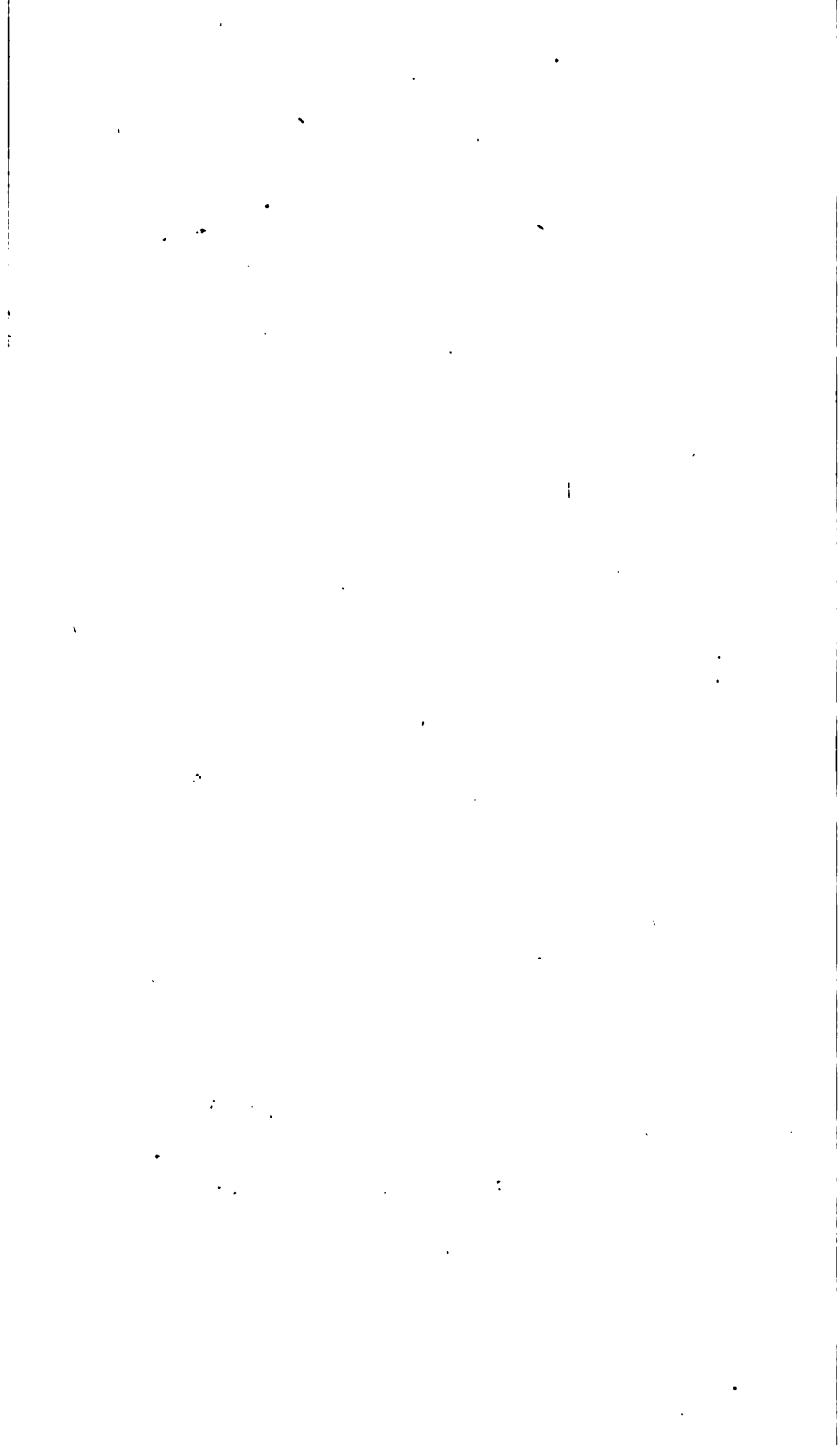
Wherein is shewn

The Power of his PATENT, the Value of the  
HALF-PENCE, and how far every Person may be  
oblig'd to take the same in Payments, and how to  
behave in Case such an Attempt should be made by  
W O O D or any other Person.

(Very proper to be kept in every FAMILY.)

To which are prefix'd the Addresses of the LORDS and  
COMMONS of *Ireland* against the said PATENT.

B





To the King's most Excellent  
**M A J E S T Y.**

*The Humble ADDRESS of the Knights,  
Citizens and Burgesſes, in Parlia-  
ment Aſſembled.*

Most Gracious Sovereign,



*I* *t is with the utmost Concern,*  
*that We, your Majesty's most du-*  
*tiful Subjects, the Commons of*  
*IRELAND in Parliament aſſem-*  
*bled, find our ſelves indiſpenſably*  
*oblig'd, to repreſent to your Majesty,*  
*our unani-*  
*mous Opinion: That the Importing and Utter-*  
*ing of Copper Farthings and Half-Pence, by*  
*Virtue of the Patent lately granted to William*  
*Wood, Eſq; under the Great Seal of Great Bri-*  
*tain, will be highly prejudicial to your Majesty's*  
*Revenue, deſtructive of the Trade and Commerce*

*of this Nation, and of the most dangerous Consequence to the Properties of the Subject.*

*We are fully convinced, from the tender Regard your Majesty has always express'd for our Welfare and Prosperity, that this Patent could not have been obtain'd, had not William Wood, and his Accomplices, greatly misrepresented the State of this Nation to your Majesty; it having appear'd to us, by Examinations taken in the most solemn Manner, that tho' the Terms thereof had been strictly comply'd with, there would have been a Loss to this Nation of at least 150 per Cent. by Means of the said Coinage, and a much greater in the Manner the said Half-Pence have been coined.*

*We likewise beg Leave to inform your Majesty, That the said William Wood has been guilty of a most notorious Fraud and Deceit in coining the said Half-Pence, having, under Colour of the Powers granted unto him, imported and endeavour'd to utter great Quantities of different Impressions, and of much less Weight than was requir'd by the said Patent.*

*Your faithful Commons have found, by Experience, That the granting the Power or Privilege of coining Money, or Tokens to pass for Money, to private Persons, has been highly detrimental to your loyal Subjects; and being apprehensive, that the vesting such Power in any Body*  
*Politick*

*Politick or Corporate, or any private Person or Persons whatsoever, will be always of dangerous Consequence to this Kingdom, are encouraged, by the repeated Assurances your Majesty hath given us of your Royal Favour and Protection, humbly to entreat your Majesty, That whenever you shall hereafter think it necessary to coin any Farthings or Half-Pence, the same may be made as near the Intrinsick Value as possible, and that whatever Profit shall accrue thereby, may be apply'd to the Publick Service.*

*And we do further humbly beseech your Majesty, That you will be graciously pleased to give such Directions, as you, in your great Wisdom, shall think proper, to prevent the fatal Effects of Uttering any Farthings or Half-Pence pursuant to the said Patent.*

*As this Enquiry has proceeded entirely from our Love to our Country, so we cannot omit this Opportunity of repeating our unanimous Resolution, to stand by and support your Majesty to the utmost of our Power, against all your Enemies, both at Home and Abroad; and of assuring your Majesty, that we will, upon every Occasion, give your Majesty and the World, all possible Demonstration of our Zeal and inviolable Duty and Affection to your Majesty's most sacred Person and Government, and to the Succession, as establish'd, in your Royal House.*



To the King's most Excellent  
**M A J E S T Y.**

The humble Address of the Lords Spiritual and  
Temporal of IRELAND, in Parliament  
assembled, against WILLIAM WOOD.

May it please your most Sacred Majesty,



*E the Lords Spiritual and Temporal  
in Parliament assembled, are under  
the utmost Concern to find, that our  
Duty to your Majesty and our Coun-  
trety, indispensably calls upon us to acquaint your  
Majesty with the ill Consequences, which will  
inevitably follow from a Patent for coining  
Half-Pence and Farthings to be utter'd in this  
Kingdom, obtained under the Great Seal of  
Great Britain, by one William Wood, in a clan-  
destine and unprecedented Manner, and by a  
gross Misrepresentation of the State of this King-  
dom.*

*We are most humbly of Opinion, that the Di-  
minution of your Majesty's Revenue, the Ruin of  
our Trade, and the Impoverishing of your People,  
must unavoidably attend this Undertaking; and  
we beg Leave to observe to your Majesty, that  
from*

*from the most exact Enquiries and Computations we have been able to make, it appears to us, that the Gain to William Wood will be excessive, and the Loss to this Kingdom, by circulating this base Coin, greater than this poor Countrey is able to bear.*

*With the greatest Submission and Deference to your Majesty's Wisdom, we beg we may offer it as our humble Opinion, That the Reserving the Coining of Half-pence and Farthings to the Crown, and the not intrusting it with any private Person, Body Politick or Corporate, will always be for your Majesty's Service, and the Good of your People in this Kingdom.*

*In Confidence, Sir, of your Paternal Care of the Welfare of this Country, we beseech your Majesty, that you will be pleas'd to extend that Goodness and Compassion to us, which has so eminently shew'd it-self to all your other Subjects, who have the Happiness to live under your Protection and Government; and that you will give such Directions as may effectually free us from the terrible Apprehensions we labour under from the Patent granted to William Wood.*





To which Address His Majesty was pleased to give the following most gracious Answer, viz.

GEORGE R.

**H**IS Majesty is very much concerned to see, That His Granting the Patent for Coining Half-Pence and Farthings agreeable to the Practice of His Royal Predecessors, has given so much Uneasiness to the House of Lords: And if there have been any Abuses committed by the Patentee, His Majesty will give the necessary Orders for enquiring into, and punishing those Abuses: And will do every Thing that is in His Power, for the Satisfaction of His People.

---

To



To the *Tradesmen, Shop-Keepers,*  
*Farmers,* and *Common-People* in  
General, of the Kingdom of  
*I R E L A N D.*

*Brethren, Friends, Countrymen* and *Fellow*  
*Subjects,*



**W**HAT I intend now to say to you  
is, next to your Duty to God,  
and the Care of your Salvation, of  
the greatest Concern to your  
selves, and your Children; your  
*Bread and Cloathing,* and every common Neces-  
sary of Life entirely depend upon it. Therefore  
I do most earnestly exhort you as *Men,* as  
*Christians,* as *Parents,* and as *Lovers of your*  
*Country,* to read this Paper with the utmost  
Attention, or get it read to you by others;  
which that you may do at the less Expence, I  
have ordered the Printer to sell it at the lowest  
Rate.

It is a great Fault among you, that when a Person writes with no other Intention than *to do you good, you will not be at the Pains to read his Advices*: One Copy of this Paper may serve a Dozen of you, which will be less than a Farthing a-piece. It is your Folly that you have no common or general Interest in your View, not even the Wisest among you, neither do you know or enquire, or care who are your Friends, or who are your Enemies.

About four Years ago, a little Book was written, to advise all People to wear the *Manufactures of this our own Dear Country*: It had no other Design, said nothing against the *King* or *Parliament*, or *any Man*, yet the POOR PRINTER was prosecuted two Years, with the utmost Violence, and even some WEAVERS themselves, for whose Sake it was written, being upon the JURY, FOUND HIM GUILTY. This would be enough to discourage any Man from endeavouring to do you Good, when you will either neglect him or fly in his Face for his Pains, and when he must expect only *Danger to himself* and *Loss of Money*, perhaps to his Ruin.

However, I cannot but warn you once more of the manifest Destruction before your Eyes, if you do not behave your selves as you ought.

I will therefore first tell you the *plain Story of the Fact*; and then I will lay before you, how you

you ought to act in common Prudence, and according to the *Laws of your Country*.

*The Fact is thus*, It having been many Years since COPPER HALF-PENCE OF FARTHINGS were last Coined in this *Kingdom*, they have been for some time very scarce, and many *Counterfeits* passed about under the Name of RAPS: Several Applications were made to *England*, that we might have Liberty to *Coin New ones*, as in former times we did; but they did not succeed. At last one Mr. WOOD a mean ordinary Man, a *Hard-Ware Dealer*, procured a Patent under His MAJESTY'S BROAD SEAL to Coin FOURSORE AND TEN THOUSAND POUNDS in *Copper* for this *Kingdom*, which Patent however did not oblige any one here to take them, unless they pleased. Now you must know, that the HALF-PENCE and FARTHINGS in *England* pass for very little more than they are worth. And if you should beat them to Pieces, and sell them to the *Brazier*, you would not lose above a Penny in a Shilling. But Mr. WOOD made his HALF-PENCE of such *Base Metal*, and so much smaller than the *English* ones, that the *Brazier* would not give you above a Penny of good Money for a Shilling of his; so that this Sum of *Four-score and Ten Thousand Pounds* in good Gold and Silver, must be given for TRASH that will not be worth  
above

above *Eight* or *Nine Thousand Pounds* real Value. But this is not the Worst, for Mr. WOOD, when he pleases, may by Stealth send over *another* and *another Fourscore and Ten Thousand Pounds*, and buy *all our Goods for Eleven Parts in Twelve*, under the Value. For Example, if a *Hatter* sells a *Dozen of Hats* for *Five Shillings* a-piece, which amounts to *Three Pounds*, and receives the Payment in Mr. WOOD'S Coin, he really receives only the Value of *Five Shillings*.

Perhaps you will wonder how such an *ordinary Fellow* as this Mr. WOOD could have so much Interest as to get his MAJESTY'S Broad Seal for so great a Sum of bad Money, to be sent to this Poor Countrey, and that all the *Nobility* and *Gentry* here could not obtain the same Favour, and let us make our own *Half-Pence*, as we used to do. Now I will make that Matter very Plain. We are at a great Distance from the *King's Court*, and have no body there to solicit for us, although a great Number of *Lords* and *Squires*, whose Estates are here, and are our Countrymen, spend all their *Lives* and *Fortunes* there. But this same Mr. WOOD was able to attend constantly for his own Interest; he is an ENGLISHMAN and had GREAT FRIENDS, and it seems knew very well *where to give Money*, to those that would speak to OTHERS that could speak to the KING and could tell a

FAIR,

FAIR STORY. And HIS MAJESTY, and perhaps the great Lord or Lords who advised him, might think it was for our *Country's Good*; and so, as the Lawyers express it, the KING was deceived in his Grant, which often happens in *all Reigns*. And I am sure if his MAJESTY knew that such a Patent, if it should take Effect according to the Desire of Mr. WOOD, would utterly ruin this Kingdom, which hath given such great Proofs of its *Loyalty*, he would immediately recall it, and perhaps shew his Displeasure to SOME BODY OR OTHER: *But a Word to the Wise is enough*. Most of you must have heard, with what Anger our *Honourable House of Commons* receiv'd an Account of this WOOD'S PATENT. There were several *Fine Speeches* made upon it, and plain Proofs that it was all a WICKED CHEAT from the *Bottom to the Top*, and several *Smart Votes* were printed, which that same WOOD had the assurance to answer likewise in *Print*, and in so confident a Way, as if he were a *better Man than Our whole Parliament* put together.

This WOOD, as soon as his *Patent* was passed, or soon after, sends over a great many *Barrels of those HALF-PENCE*, to *Cork* and other *Sea-Port Towns*, and to get them off, offered an *Hundred Pounds* in his *Coin* for *Seventy or Eighty* in *Silver*: But the *Collectors* of the

KING'S

KING's Customs very honestly refused to take them, and so did almost every body else. And since the *Parliament* hath condemned them, and desired the KING that they might be stopped, all the *Kingdom* do abominate them.

But WOOD is still working *under hand* to force his HALF-PENCE upon us, and if he can by help of his *Friends* in *England* prevail so far as to get an Order that the *Commissioners* and *Collectors* of the KING's Money shall receive them, and that the ARMY is to be paid with them, then he thinks *his Work shall be done*. And this is the Difficulty you will be under in such a *Case*: For the common Soldier when he goes to the *Market* or *Ale-house* will offer this Money, and if it be refused, perhaps he will SWAGGER and HECTOR, and *Threaten* to *Beat* the BUTCHER or *Ale-Wife*, or take the Goods by Force, and throw them the bad HALF-PENCE. In this and the like Cases, the *Shop-Keeper*, or *Victualer*, or *any other Tradesman* has no more to do, than to demand ten times the Price of his Goods if it is to be paid in WOOD's Money; for Example, Twenty Pence of that Money for A QUART OF ALE, and so in all things else, and not part with his Goods till he gets the *Money*.

For suppose you go to an ALE-HOUSE with that base Money, and the *Landlord* gives you a  
Quart

Quert for Four of these HALF-PENCE, what must the *Victualer* do? His *Brewer* will not be paid in that Coin, or if the *Brewer* should be such a Fool, the *Farmers* will not take it from them for their *Beer*, because they are bound by their *Leases* to pay their *Rents* in Good and Lawful Money of *England*, which this is not, nor of *Ireland* neither, and the *Squire their Landlord* will never be so bewitched to take such *Trash* for his Land; so that it must certainly stop some where or other, and wherever it stops it is the same thing, and we are all undone.

The common weight of these HALF-PENCE is between Four and Five to an *Ounce*; suppose Five, then three Shillings and Four Pence will weigh a Pound, and consequently *Twenty Shillings* will weigh *Six Pounds Butter Weight*. Now there are many Hundred *Farmers* who pay Two hundred Pound a Year Rent: Therefore when one of these *Farmers* comes with his Half Year's Rent, which is one Hundred Pound, it will be at least Six Hundred Pound weight, which is Three *Horses Load*.

If a *Squire* has a mind to come to Town to buy *Cloaths* and *Wine* and *Spices* for himself and *Family*, or perhaps to pass the *Winter* here; he must bring with him Five or Six *Horses* loaden with *Sacks* as the *Farmers* bring their *Corn*; and when his *Lady* comes in her *Coach* to our *Shops*,



it must be followed by a Car loaded with Mr. WOOD'S Money. And I hope we shall have the Grace to take it for no more than it is worth.

They say SQUIRE CONOLLY has *Sixteen Thousand Pounds a Year*; now if he sends for his *Rent* to Town, as it is likely he does, he must have *Two Hundred and Fifty Horses* to bring up his *Half-Year's Rent*, and *Two or Three great Cellars* in his House for Stowage. But what the Bankers will do I cannot tell. For I am assured, that some great Bankers keep by them *Forty Thousand Pounds* in ready Cash to answer all Payments, which Sum, in Mr. WOOD'S Money, would require *Twelve Hundred Horses* to carry it.

For my own Part, I am already resolved what to do; I have a pretty good Shop of *Irish Stuffs* and *Silks*, and instead of taking Mr. WOOD'S bad Copper, I intend to Truck with my Neighbours the *BUTCHERS*, and *Bakers*, and *Brewers*, and the rest, *Goods for Goods*, and the little *Gold* and *Silver* I have, I will keep by me like my *Heart's Blood* till better times, or till I am just ready to starve, and then I will buy Mr. WOOD'S Money, as my Father did the *Brafs Money* in K. JAMES'S Time, who could buy *Ten Pound* of it with a *Guinea*, and I hope to get as much for a *Pistole*, and so purchase *Bread* from those who will be such Fools as to sell it me.

These

These HALF-PENCE, if they once pass, will soon be COUNTERFEIT, because it may be cheaply done, the *Stuff* is so *Base*. The DUTCH likewise will probably do the same thing, and send them over to us to pay for our *Goods*; and Mr. WOOD will never be at rest but coin on: So that in some Years we shall have at least five Times Fourscore and Ten Thousand Pounds of this *Lumber*. Now the Current Money of this Kingdom is not reckoned to be above Four Hundred Thousand Pounds in all; and while there is a *Silver Six-Pence* left, these BLOOD-SUCKERS will never be quiet:

When once the *Kingdom* is reduced to such a Condition, I will tell you what must be the End: The *Gentlemen of Estates* will all turn off their *Tenants* for want of Payment, because, as I told you before, the *Tenants* are obliged by their *Leases* to pay *Sterling*, which is Lawful Current Money of *England*; then they will turn their own *Farmers*, AS TOO MANY OF THEM DO ALREADY, turn all into *Sheep* where they can, keeping only such other *Cattle* as are necessary; then they will be their own *Merchants* and send their *Wool* and *Butter* and *Hides* and *Linnen* beyond Sea for ready *Money* and *Wine* and *Spices* and *Silks*. They will keep only a few miserable *Cottiers*. The *Farmers* must *Rob* or *Beg*, or leave their *Country*. The *Shop-keepers* in this and every other Town, must *Break*  
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and *Starve*: For it is the *Landedman* that maintains the *Merchant*, and *Shop-keeper*, and *Handicrafts Man*.

But when the *Squire* turns *Farmer* and *Merchant* himself, all the good Money he gets from abroad, he will hoard up to send for *England*, and keep some poor *Taylor* or *Weaver* and the like in his own House, who will be glad to get Bread at any Rate.

I should never have done, if I were to tell you all the Miseries that we shall undergo if we be so *Foolish* and *Wicked* as to take this CURSED COYN. It would be very hard, if all *Ireland* should be put into *One Scale*, and *this sorry Fellow WOOD* into the other, that Mr. WOOD should weigh down *this whole Kingdom*, by which *England* gets above a Million of good Money every Year clear into their *Pockets*, and that is more than the *English* do by *all the World besides*.

But your *great Comfort* is, that, as his MAJESTY'S *Patent* does not oblige you to take this *Money*, so the *Laws* have not given the *Crown* a Power of forcing the *Subjects* to take what *Money* the KING pleases: For then by the same Reason we might be bound to take PEBBLE-STONES or *Cockle-shells*, or *Stamped Leather* for *Current Coin*, if ever we should happen to live under an ill PRINCE, who might likewise by  
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the same Power make a *Guinea* pass for ten Pounds, a *Shilling* for Twenty Shillings, and so on, by which he would in a short Time get all the *Silver* and *Gold* of the *Kingdom* into his own Hands, and leave us nothing but *Brass* or *Leather* or what he pleased. Neither is any Thing reckoned more *Cruel* or *Oppressive* in the *French Government* than their common Practice of calling in all their Money after they have sunk it very low, and then coining it a-new at a much higher Value, which however is not the Thousandth Part so wicked as this *abominable Project* of Mr. Wood. For the *French* give their Subjects *Silver* for *Silver*, and *Gold* for *Gold*; but *this Fellow* will not so much as give us good *Brass* or *Copper* for our *Gold* and *Silver*, nor even a Twelfth Part of their Worth.

Having said this much, I will now go on to tell you the Judgments of some great *Lawyers* in this Matter, whom I see'd on purpose for your Sakes, and got their *Opinions* under their *Hands*, that I might be sure I went upon good Grounds.

*A Famous Law-Book call'd the Mirrour of Justice, discoursing of the Articles (or Laws) ordained by our Ancient Kings; declares the Law to be as follows: It was ordained that no King of this Realm should Change, Impair or Amend the Money or make any other Money than of Gold or Silver without the Assent of all the Counties;*

that is, as my Lord Coke says\*, without the Assent of Parliament.

This Book is very Ancient, and of great Authority for the Time in which it was wrote, and with that Character is often quoted by that great Lawyer my Lord Coke †. By the Laws of England, several Metals are divided into *Lawful* or *true Metal* and *unlawful* or *false Metal*; the Former comprehends *Silver* or *Gold*, the Latter all *Baser Metals*: That the Former is only to pass in Payments appears by an Act of Parliament ‡ made the Twentieth Year of Edward the First, called the *Statute concerning the Passing of Pence*, which I give you here as I got it translated into *English*; for some of our *Laws* at that Time were, as I am told, writ in *Latin*: *Whoever in Buying or Selling presumeth to refuse an Halfpenny or Farthing of Lawful Money, bearing the Stamp which it ought to have, let him be seized on as a Contemner of the King's Majesty, and cast to Prison.*

By this *Statute*, no Person is to be reckoned a *Contemner* of the King's Majesty, and for that Crime to be *committed to Prison*; but he who refuses to accept the King's Coin made of *Lawful Metal*, by which, as I observ'd before, *Silver* and *Gold* only are intended.

\* 2 Inst. 576. † 2 Inst. 576. 7. ‡ 2 Inst. 577.

That this is the true *Construction* of the *Act*, appears not only from the plain Meaning of the Words, but from my Lord *Coke's* \* *Observation* upon it. By this *Act* (says he) it appears, that no Subject can be forc'd to take in *Buying* or *Selling* or other *Payments*, any Money made but of Lawful Metal; that is, of *Silver* or *Gold*.

The Law of *England* gives the King all Mines of *Gold* and *Silver*, but not the Mines of other *Metals*; the Reason of which *Prerogative* or *Power*, as it is given † by my Lord *Coke*, is because Money can be made of *Gold* and *Silver*, but not of other *Metals*.

Pursuant to this Opinion *Half-pence* and *Farthings* were anciently made of *Silver*, which is more evident from the *Act* of *Parliament* of *Henry* the IVth. Chap. 4. by which it is enacted as follows: *Item, for the great Scarcity that is at present within the Realm of England of Half-pence and Farthings of Silver, it is ordained and established that the Third Part of all the Money of Silver Plate which shall be brought to the Bullion, shall be made in Half-pence and Farthings. This shews that by the Words Half-penny and Farthing of Lawful Money in that Statute concerning the Passing of Pence, is meant a small Coin in Half-pence and Farthings of Silver.*

\* 2 *Inst.* 577. † 2 *Inst.* 577.

This is further manifest from the Statute of the Ninth Year of *Edward* the III<sup>d</sup>. Chap 3. which enacts, *That no Sterling Half-penny or Farthing be Molten for to make Vessel, or any other thing by the Gold-smiths, nor others, upon Forfeiture of the Money so molten (or melted.)*

By another Act in this *King's* Reign *Black Money* was not to be current in *England*, and by an Act made in the Eleventh Year of his Reign Chap. 5. *Galley Half-pence* were not to pass: What kind of *Coin* these were I do not know, but I presume they were made of *Base Metal*, and that these Acts were no *New Laws*, but further Declarations of the old *Laws* relating to the *Coin*.

Thus the *Law* stands in Relation to *Coin*, nor is there any Example to the contrary, except one in *Davis's Reports*, who tells us, that in the time of *Tyrone's* Rebellion *Queen Elizabeth* ordered *Money* of *mixt Metal* to be coined in the Tower of *London*, and sent over hither for Payment of the *Army*, obliging all People to receive it and Commanding that all *Silver Money* should be taken only as *Bullion*, that is, for as much as it weighed. *Davis* tells us several Particulars in this Matter too long here to trouble you with, and that the *Privy Council* of this *Kingdom* ob-

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liged a *Merchant* in *England* to receive this *mixt Money* for Goods transmitted hither.

But this Proceeding is rejected by all the best Lawyers as contrary to Law, the *Privy Council* here having no such Power. And besides it is to be considered, that the *Queen* was then under great Difficulties by a Rebellion in this *Kingdom* assisted from *Spain*, and whatever is done in great Exigences and Dangerous Times should never be an Example to proceed by in Seasons of *Peace* and *Quietness*.

I will now, my Dear Friends, to save you the Trouble, set before you in short, what the *Law* obliges you to do, and what it does not oblige you to.

First, you are oblig'd to take all Money in Payments which is coin'd by the *King* and is of the *English* Standard or Weight, provided it be of *Gold* or *Silver*.

Secondly, you are not oblig'd to take any Money which is not of *Gold* or *Silver*, not only the *Half-pence* or *Fartbings* of *England* or of any other Country; and it is only for Convenience, or Ease, that you are content to take them, because the Custom of coining *Silver Half-pence* and *Fartbings* hath long been left off, I will suppose on Account of their being subject to be lost,

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Thirdly,



Thirdly, much less are we oblig'd to take those *Vile Half-pence* of that same WOOD, by which you must lose almost Eleven-Pence in every Shilling.

Therefore, my Friends, stand to it One and All, refuse this *Filtby Trash*: It is no Treason to rebel against Mr. WOOD, His Majesty in his Patent obliges no body to take these *Half-pence*; our *Gracious Prince* hath no so ill Advisers about him; or if he had, yet you see the Laws have not left it in the *King's* Power, to force us to take any Coin but what is Lawful, of right Standard, *Gold* and *Silver*; therefore you have nothing to fear.

And let me in the next Place apply my self particularly to you who are the poor sort of *Tradesmen*: Perhaps you may think you will not be so great Losers as the Rich, if these *Half-pence* should pass, because you seldom see any *Silver*, and your *Customers* come to your *Shops* or *Stalls* with nothing but *Brass*, which you likewise find hard to be got; but you may take my Word, whenever this Money gains Footing among you, you will be utterly undone; if you carry these *Half-pence* to a Shop for *Tobacco* or *Brandy*, or any other Thing you want, the *Shop-keeper* will advance his Goods accordingly, or else he must  
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break and leave the *Key under the Door*. Do you think I will sell you a Yard of Tenpenny Stuff for twenty of Mr. WOOD's *Half-pence*? No, not under Two Hundred at least, neither will I be at the Trouble of counting, but weigh them in a Lump. I will tell you one Thing further, that if Mr. WOOD's Project should take, it will ruineven our Beggars: For when I give a *Beggar* an Half-penny, it will quench his Thirst, or go a good way to fill his Belly; but the Twelfth Part of a Half-penny will do him no more servicethan if I should give him Three Pins out of my Sleeve.

*In short those Half-Pence are like the accursed Thing, which as the Scripture tells us, the Children of Israel were forbidden to touch; they will run about like the Plague and destroy every one who lays his Hands upon them. I have heard Scholars talk of a Man who told a King that he had invented a way to torment People by putting them into a Bull of Brass with Fire under it, but the Prince put the Projector first into his own Brazen Bull to make the Experiment; this very much resembles the Project of Mr. WOOD; and the like of this may possibly be Mr. WOOD's Fate, that the Brass be contrived to torment this Kingdom with, may prove his own Torment, and his Destruction at last.*

N. B.

*N. B.* The Author of this Paper is inform'd by Persons who have made it their Business to be exact in their Observations on the true Value of these HALF-PENCE, that any Person may expect to get a Quart of Twopenny Ale for Thirty Six of them.

I desire all Persons may keep this Paper carefully by them to refresh their Memories whenever they shall have farther Notice of Mr. WOOD's Half-pence or any other the like Imposture.



A  
LETTER

TO

Mr. *HARDING* the Printer,

Upon Occasion of a

PARAGRAPH

IN HIS

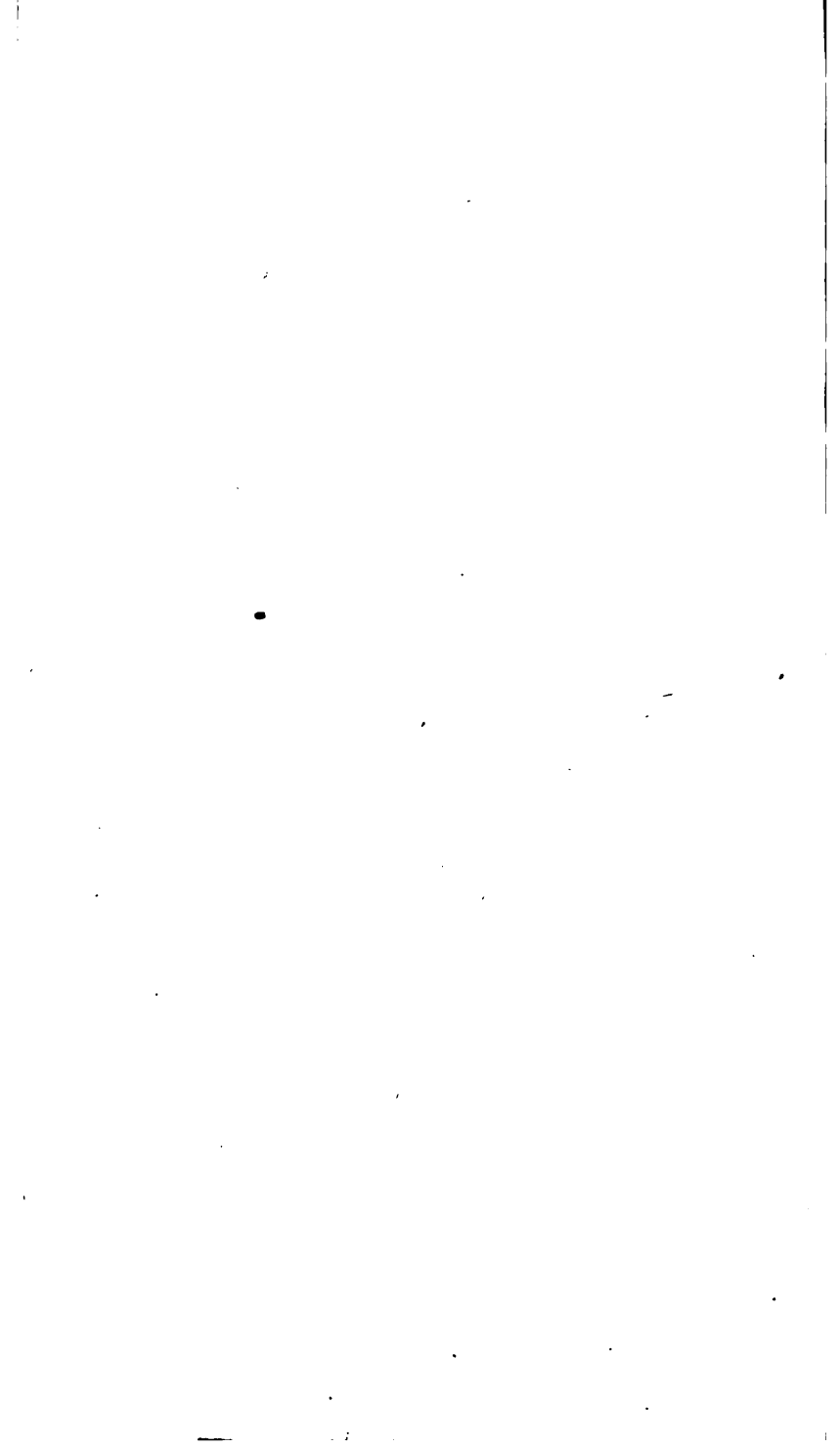
NEWS-PAPER,

Of *August* 1, 1724,

Relating to

Mr. *Wood's* HALF-PENCE.

To which is prefix'd the Report of the  
Honourable the PRIVY-COUNCIL,  
being the Foundation of Mr. *HARDING's*  
Paragraph.





The REPORT of the Committee of the Lords of his Majesty's most Honourable Privy-Council, in relation to Mr. *Wood's* Half-Pence and Farthings, &c.

At the Council-Chamber at *Whitehall*, the Twenty-Fourth Day of *July*, 1724.

**I**N Obedience to your Majesty's Order of Reference, upon the several Resolutions and Addresses of both Houses of Parliament of Ireland, during their late Session, the late Address of your Majesty's Justices, and Privy Council of that Kingdom, and the Petitions of the County and City of Dublin, concerning a Patent granted by your Majesty to William Wood, Esq; for the Coining and Uttering Copper Half-pence and Farthings in the Kingdom of Ireland, to such Persons as would voluntarily accept the same; and upon the Petition of the said William Wood, concerning the same Coinage, the Lords of the Committee have taken into their Consideration the said Patent, Addresses, Petitions, and all Matters and Papers relating thereto, and have heard and examined all such Persons, as, upon due and sufficient No-

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*tice, were desirous and willing to be heard upon the Subject Matter under their Consideration, and have agreed upon the following Report, containing a true State of the whole Matter, as it appeared before them, with their humble Opinion, to be laid before your Majesty for your Royal Consideration and Determination, upon a Matter of such Importance.*

*The several Addresses to your Majesty from your Subjects of Ireland, contain in general Terms the strongest Representations of the great Apprehensions they were under, from the Importing and Uttering Copper Half-pence and Farthings in Ireland, by Virtue of the Patent granted to Mr. Wood, which they conceived would prove highly prejudicial to your Majesty's Revenue, destructive of the Trade and Commerce of the Kingdom, and of dangerous Consequence to the Properties of the Subject. They represent, That the Patent had been obtained in a clandestine and unprecedented Manner, and by Notorious Misrepresentations of the State of Ireland; That if the Terms of the Patent had been comply'd with, this Coinage would have been of infinite Loss to the Kingdom, but that the Patentee, under Colour of the Powers granted to him, had Imported and endeavoured to Utter great Quantities of different Impressions, and of less Weight, than required by the Patent, and had been guilty of notorious*  
*Frauds*

*Frauds and Deceit in Coining the said Copper Money: And they humbly beseech your Majesty, that you would give such Directions, as in your great Wisdom you should think proper, to prevent the fatal Effects of Uttering any Half-pence or Farthings by Virtue of the said Patent: And the House of Commons of Ireland, in a second Address upon this Subject, Pray, That your Majesty would be pleased to give Directions to the several Officers intrusted in the Receipt of your Majesty's Revenue, That they do not on any Pretence whatever, receive or utter any of the said Copper Half-pence or Farthings.*

*In Answer to the Addresses of the Houses of Parliament of Ireland, your Majesty was most Graciously pleased to assure them, " That if any " Abuses had been committed by the Patentee, " You would give the necessary Orders for En- " quiring into and punishing those Abuses; and " that your Majesty would do every thing that " was in your Power, for the Satisfaction of " your People.*

*In pursuance of this your Majesty's most Gracious Declaration, your Majesty was pleased to take this Matter into your Royal Consideration; and that you might be the better enabled effectually to answer the Expectations of your People of Ireland, your Majesty was pleased by a Letter from Lord Carteret, one of your principal Secretaries of State,*



*Statt, Dated March 10, 1723-4, to signify your Pleasure to your Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, " That he should give Directions for sending over such Papers and Witnesses as should be thought proper to support the Objections made against the Patent, and against the Patentee, in the Execution of the Powers given him by the Patent.*

*Upon the Receipt of these your Majesty's Orders, the Lord Lieut. by his Letter of the 20th of March, 1723-4, represented the great Difficulty he found himself under, to comply with these your Majesty's Orders; and by another Letter of the 24th of March, 1723-4; " after consulting the principal Members of both Houses, who were immediately in your Majesty's Service, and of the Privy Council," acquainted your Majesty, " That none of them would take upon them to advise, how any material Persons or Papers might be sent over on this Occasion; but they all seem'd apprehensive of the ill Temper any Miscarriage, in a Tryal, upon Scire Facias brought against the Patentee, might occasion in both Houses, if the Evidence were not laid as full before a Jury, as it was before them," and did therefore, a second Time, decline sending over any Persons, Papers or Materials whatsoever, to support this Charge brought against your Majesty's Patent and the Patentee.*

*As*

*As this Proceeding seem'd very extraordinary, that in a Matter that had raised so great and universal a Clamour in Ireland, no one Person could be prevailed upon to come over from Ireland, in Support of the United Sense of both Houses of Parliament of Ireland; That no Papers, no Materials, no Evidence whatsoever of the Mischiefs arising from this Patent, or of the notorious Frauds and Deceit committed in the Execution of it, could now be had; to give your Majesty Satisfaction herein; "Your Majesty however, desirous to give your People of Ireland all possible Satisfaction, but sensible that you cannot in any Case proceed against any of the meanest of your Subjects, but according to the known Rules and Maxims of Law and Justice," repeated your Orders to your Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, that by Persuasion and making proper Allowances for their Expences, new Endeavours might be used to procure and send over such Witnesses as should be thought material to make good the Charge against the Patent.*

*In Answer to these Orders, the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland acquaints your Majesty, by his Letter of the 23d of April to one of your principal Secretaries of State, "That in Order to obey your Majesty's Commands as far as possibly he could, at a Meeting with the Lord Chancellor,*

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“ the Chief Judges, your Majesty’s Attorney and  
 “ Solicitor General, *he had earnestly desired their*  
 “ *Advice and Assistance, to enable him to send*  
 “ *over such Witnesses as might be necessary to sup-*  
 “ *port the Charge against Mr. Wood’s Patent,*  
 “ *and the Execution of it : The Result of this*  
 “ *Meeting was such, that the Lord Lieutenant*  
 “ *could not reap the least Advantage or Assistance*  
 “ *from it, every one being so guarded with cau-*  
 “ *tion, against giving any Advice or Opinion in*  
 “ *this Matter of State, apprehending great Dan-*  
 “ *ger to themselves from meddling in it.*

*The Lords of the Committee think it very strange, that there should be such great Difficulty in prevailing with Persons, who had already given their Evidence before the Parliament of Ireland, to come over and give the same Evidence here, and especially, that the chief Difficulty should arise, from a general Apprehension of a Miscarriage, in an Enquiry before your Majesty, or in a proceeding by due Course of Law, in a Case, where both Houses of Parliament had declared themselves so fully convinced and satisfied, upon Evidence and Examinations taken in the most solemn Manner.*

*At the same time that your Majesty sent your Orders to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, to send over such Evidences as were thought material to support the Charge against the Patent, that your Majesty*

*Majesty might, without any further Loss of Time that was absolutely necessary, be as full informed as was possible, and that the Abuses and Frauds alledged to be committed by the Patentee, in executing the Powers granted to him, might be fully and strictly enquired into, and examined, your Majesty was pleased to order that an Assay should be made of the Fineness, Value, and Weight of this Copper Money, and the Goodness thereof, compared with the former Coinages of Copper Money for Ireland, and the Copper Money coined in your Majesty's Mint in England; and it was accordingly referred to Sir Isaac Newton, Edward Southwell, and John Scrope, Esq; to make the said Assay and Tryal.*

*By the Reports made of this Assay, which are hereunto annexed, it appears, " That the Pix of  
 " the Copper Monies coined at Bristol by Mr.  
 " Wood for Ireland, containing the Tryal Pieces,  
 " which was sealed and locked up at the Time of  
 " Coining, was opened at your Majesty's Mint at  
 " the Tower; That the Comptroller's Account of  
 " the Quantities of Half-pence and Farthings  
 " coined, agreed with Mr. Wood's Account, a-  
 " mounting to 59 Tons, 3 Hundred, 1 Quarter,  
 " 11 Pounds, and 4 Ounces; That by the Speci-  
 " mens of this Coinage, which had from time to  
 " time been taken from the several parcels coin'd  
 " and sealed up in Papers, and put into the Pix,*

“ 60 Half-pence weighed 14 Ounces Troy, and  
 “ 18 Penny-Weight, which is about a quarter  
 “ of an Ounce above one Pound-Weight Aver-  
 “ dupois; and 30 Farthings weighed 3 Ounces  
 “ and 3 quarters of an Ounce Troy, and 46  
 “ Grains, which is also above the Weight re-  
 “ quired by the Patent. It also appears, that  
 “ both Half-pence and Farthings when beaten  
 “ red hot spread thin under the Hammer without  
 “ cracking; that the Copper of which Mr. Wood’s  
 “ Coinage is made, is of the same Goodness and  
 “ Value with the Copper of which the Copper  
 “ Money is coined in your Majesty’s Mint for  
 “ England, and worth in the Market about 13  
 “ Pence per Pound-Weight Averdupois; That a  
 “ Pound of Copper wrought into Bars or Fillets,  
 “ and made fit for Coinage, before brought into  
 “ the Mint at the Tower of London, is worth 18  
 “ Pence per Pound, and always cost as much,  
 “ and is coined into 23 Pence of Copper Money  
 “ by Tale, for England. It likewise appears,  
 “ that the Half-pence and Farthings coined by  
 “ Mr. Wood, when compared with the Copper  
 “ Money coined for Ireland, in the Reigns of  
 “ King Charles II. King James II. and King  
 “ William and Queen Mary, considerably exceeds  
 “ them all in Weight, very far exceeds them all  
 “ in Goodness, Fineness, and Value of the Cop-  
 “ per, none of them bearing the Fire so well, not  
 “ being

“ being malleable, wasting very much in the Fire,  
 “ and great part of them burning into Cinder of  
 “ little or no Value at all; Specimens of all which,  
 “ as likewise of Mr. Wood's Copper Money upon  
 “ Tryals and Assays made by Sir Haac Newton,  
 “ Mr. Southwell, and Mr. Scrope, were laid be-  
 “ fore this Committee for their Information.

The Lords of the Committee beg leave upon  
 this Article of the Complaint, That notorious  
 Frauds and Deceits had been committed by the  
 Patentee, in executing the Powers granted him,  
 to observe to your Majesty, That this is a Fact  
 expressly charged upon the Patentee, and if it had  
 in any Manner been proved, it might have ena-  
 bled your Majesty, by due Course of Law, to  
 have given the Satisfaction to your People of  
 Ireland, that has been so much insisted upon; but  
 as it is now above four Months since your Ma-  
 jesty was pleased to send over to Ireland for such  
 Evidence, as might prove a Fact alledged to be  
 so notorious, and no Evidence at all has been as  
 yet transmitted, nor the least Expectation given  
 of any that may hereafter be obtained, and the  
 Tryals and Assays that have been taken of the  
 Half-pence, and Farthings coined by Mr. Wood  
 proving so unquestionably the Weight, Goodness  
 and Fineness of the Copper Money coined, rather  
 exceeding the conditions of the Patent, than being  
 any way defective, the Lords of the Committee

*cannot advise your Majesty, by a Writ of Scire Facias, or any other Manner to endeavour vacating the said Patent, when there is no Probability of success in such an Undertaking.*

*As these Tryals and Assays fully shew that the Patentee hath acted fairly according to the Terms and Conditions of his Patent, so they evidently prove, that the Care and Caution made use of in this Patent, by proper Conditions, Checks, and Comptroles, have effectually provided, that the Copper-Money coined for Ireland by virtue of this Patent, should far exceed the like Coinages for Ireland, in the Reigns of your Majesty's Royal Predecessors.*

*And that your Majesty's Royal Predecessors have exercised this undoubted Prerogative of granting to private Persons the Power and Privilege of coining Copper Half-pence and Farthings for the Kingdom of Ireland, was proved to this Committee by several Precedents of such Patents granted to private Persons by King Charles II. and King James II. none of which were equally beneficial to your Kingdom of Ireland, nor so well guarded with proper Covenants and Conditions for the due Execution of the Powers thereby granted, altho' the Power and Validity of those Patents and a due Compliance with them, was never in any one Instance, till this time, disputed or controverted.*

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By these former Patents, the sole Power of coining Copper Money for Ireland, was granted to the Patentees for the Term of 21 Years, to be coined in such Place as they should think convenient, and such Quantities as they could conveniently issue within the Term of 21 Years, without any Restriction of the Quantity to be coined within the whole Term, or any Provision of a certain Quantity; only to be coined annually, to prevent the ill Consequences of too great a Quantity to be poured in at once, at the Will and Pleasure of the Patentees; no provision was made for the Goodness and Fineness of the Copper; no Comptroller appointed to inspect the Copper in Bars and Fillets before coined, and take constant Assays of the Money when coined; and the power of issuing not limited to such as would voluntarily accept the same; but by the Patent granted to John Knox, the Money coined by Virtue of that Patent, is made and declared to be the current Coin of the Kingdom of Ireland, and a Pound Weight of Copper was allowed to be coined into 2 Shillings and 8 Pence, and whatever Quantity should be coined, a Rent of 16l. per Annum only was reserved to the Crown, and 700 Tons of Copper were computed to be coined within 21 Years, without any Complaint.

The Term granted to Mr. Wood for coining Copper Money is for Fourteen Years only, the



*Quantity for the whole Term limited to 360 Tons, 100 Tun only to be issued within one Year, and 20 Tons each Year for the Thirteen remaining Years; a Comptroller is appointed by the Authority of the Crown to inspect, comptrol, and assay the Copper, as well not coined as coined; the Copper to be fine British Copper, cast into Bars or Fillets, which when beated red hot would spread thin under the Hammer; a Pound-Weight to be coined into Two Shillings and Six Pence, and without any Compulsion or Currency enforced, to be receiv'd by such only as would voluntarily and wilfully accept the same; a Rent of 800 l. per Annum is reserved unto your Majesty, and 200 l. per Annum to your Majesty's Clerk Comptroller, to be paid annually by the Patentee, for the full Term of the Fourteen Years, which for Thirteen Years, when 20 Tons of Copper only are coined, is not inconsiderable. These great and essential Differences in the several Patents, that have been granted for coining Copper Money for the Kingdom of Ireland, seemed sufficiently to justify the Care and Caution that was used in granting the Letters Patent to Mr. Wood.*

*It has been further represented to your Majesty, That these Letters Patent were obtain'd by Mr. Wood in a clandestine and unprecedented Manner, and by gross Misrepresentations of the State of the Kingdom of Ireland. Upon enquiring*  
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*into this Fact it appears, That the Petition of Mr. Wood for obtaining this Coinage, was presented to your Majesty at the Time that several other Petitions and Applications were made to your Majesty, for the same Purpose, by sundry Persons, well acquainted and conversant with the Affairs of Ireland, setting forth the great Want of small Money and Change in all the common and lower Parts of Traffick and Business throughout the Kingdom; and the Terms of Mr. Wood's Petition seeming to your Majesty most reasonable, thereupon a Draught of a Warrant directing a Grant of such Coinage to be made to Mr. Wood, was then referr'd to your Majesty's then Attorney and Solicitor General of England, to consider and report their Opinion to your Majesty: Sir Isaac Newton, as the Committee is informed, was consulted in all the Steps of settling and adjusting the Terms and Conditions of the Patent; and after mature Deliberation, your Majesty's Warrant was sign'd, directing an Indenture in such Manner as is practis'd in your Majesty's Mint in the Tower of London, for the Coining of Gold and Silver Monies, to pass the Great Seal of Great Britain, which was carried through all the usual Forms and Offices without Hast or Precipitation: That the Committee cannot discover the least Pretence to say, this Patent was pass'd or obtained in a clandestine or unprecedented*

*cedented Manner, unless it is to be understood that your Majesty's granting a Liberty of Coining Copper Money for Ireland, under the Great Seal of Great Britain, without referring the Consideration thereof to the principal Officers of Ireland, is the Grievance and Mischief complained of. Upon this Head it must be admitted, that Letters Patent under the Great Seal of Great-Britain for coining Copper Money for Ireland, are Legal and Obligatory, a just and reasonable Exercise of your Majesty's Royal Prerogative, and in no Manner derogatory, or invasive, of any Liberties or Privileges of your Subjects of Ireland. When any Matter or Thing is transacting that concerns or may affect your Kingdom of Ireland, if your Majesty has any Doubts concerning the same, or sees just Cause for considering your Offices of Ireland; your Majesty is frequently pleased to refer such Considerations to your chief Governours of Ireland, but the Lords of the Committee hope it will not be asserted, that any legal Orders or Resolutions of your Majesty can or ought to be called in Question or invalidated, because the Advice or Consent of your chief Governours of that Kingdom was not previously had upon them: The Precedents are many, wherein Cases of great Importance to Ireland, and that immediately affected the Interests of that Kingdom, Warrants, Orders, and Directions, by the Authority of your Majesty*

*Majesty and your Royal Predecessors, have been issued under the Royal Sign Manual, without any previous Reference or Advice of your Officers of Ireland, which have always had their due Force, and have been punctually comply'd with and obeyed. And as it cannot be disputed but this Patent might legally and properly pass under the Great Seal of Great-Britain, so their Lordships cannot find any Precedents of References to the Officers of Ireland, of what passed under the Great Seal of England; on the contrary, there are Precedents of Patents passed under the Great Seal of Ireland, where in all the previous Steps, the References were made to the Officers of England.*

*By the Misrepresentation of the State of Ireland, in order to obtain this Patent, it is presumed, is meant, That the Information given to your Majesty of the great Want of small Money, to make small Payments, was groundless, and that there is no such Want of small Money. The Lords of the Committee enquired very particularly into this Article, and Mr. Wood produced several Witnesses, that directly asserted the great Want of small Money for Change, and the great Damage that Retailers and Manufacturers suffered for Want of such Copper Money. Evidence was given, That considerable Manufacturers have been obliged to give Tallies or Tokens in Cards,*

*to their Workmen for Want of small Money, signed upon the Back, to be afterwards exchanged for larger Money: That a Præmium was often given to obtain small Money for necessary Occasions: Several Letters from Ireland to Correspondents in England were read, complaining of the want of Copper Money, and expressing the great Demand there was for this Money.*

*The great want of small Money was further proved by the common Use of Raps, a counterfeit Coin of such base Mettal, that what passes for a Half-penny, is not worth half a Farthing, which Raps appeared to have obtained a Currency out of Necessity and for want of better small Money to make Change with; and by the best Accounts, the Lords of the Committee have Reason to believe, That there can be no doubt, that there is a real Want of small Money in Ireland, which seems to be so far admitted on all Hands, that there does not appear to have been any Misrepresentation of the State of Ireland in this Respect.*

*In the second Address from the House of Commons to your Majesty, They most humbly beseech your Majesty, that you will be graciously pleased to give Directions to the several Officers intrusted with the Receipt of your Majesty's Revenue, that they do not on any Pretence whatsoever, receive or utter such Half-pence or Farthings, and Mr.*

Wood

Wood in his *Petition* to your Majesty, complains, that the Officers of your Majesty's Revenue had already given such Orders to all the inferior Officers not to receive any of this Coin.

Your Majesty, by your Patent under the Great Seal of Great Britain, Wills, Requires and Commands your "Lieutenant, Deputy, or other Chief Governour or Governours of your Kingdom of Ireland, and all other Officers and Ministers of your Majesty, your Heirs and Successors in England, Ireland or elsewhere, to be aiding and assisting to the said William Wood, his Executors, &c. in the Execution of all or any the Powers, Authorities, Directions, Matters or Things to be executed by him or them, or for his or their Benefit and Advantage, by Virtue, and in Pursuance of the said Indentures, in all Things as becometh, &c." And if the Officers of the Revenue have, upon their own Authority, given any Orders, Directions, Significations, or Intimations, to hinder or obstruct the receiving and uttering the Copper Money coined and imported, pursuant to your Majesty's Letters Patent, this cannot but be looked upon as a very extraordinary Proceeding.

In another Paragraph of the Patent your Majesty has covenanted and granted unto the said William Wood, his Executors, &c. "That upon performance of Covenants, on his and their  
 " Parts,

*but iust and reasonable, that your Majesty should immediately send Orders to your Commissioners of the Revenue, and all other your Officers in Ireland, to revoke all Orders, Directions, Significations, or Intimations whatsoever, that may have been given by them, or any of them, to binder or obstruct the receiving and uttering this Copper Money, and that the Half-pence and Farthings already coined by Mr. Wood, amounting to about 17000 l. and such further Quantity as shall make up the said 17000 l. to 40000 l. " be " suffered and permitted without any Lett, " Suit, Trouble, Molestation, or Denial of any " of your Maiesty's Officers or Ministers what- " soever, to Pass, and be received as Current " Money by such as shall be willing to receive " the same." At the same time, it may be advisable for your Maiesty, to give the proper Orders, that Mr. Wood shall not coin, import into Ireland, utter or dispose of any more Copper Half-pence or Farthings, than to the Amount of 40000 l. according to his own Proposal, without your Majesty's special Licence or Authority, to be had for that Purpose; and if your Majesty shall be pleased to Order, that Mr. Wood's Proposal, delivered to the Lords of the Committee, shall be transmitted to your Majesty's Chief Governour, Deputies, or other your Ministers,*

*or*

*or Officers in Ireland, it will give them a proper Opportunity to consider, Whether, after the Reduction of 360 Tons of Copper, being in value 100800 l. to 142 Tons, 17 Hundred, 16 Pounds being in Value 40,000 l. only, any thing can be done for the further Satisfaction of the People of Ireland.*







A LETTER to Mr. HARDING the Printer, upon Occasion of a PARAGRAPH in his News-Paper of *August 1, 1724*, relating to Mr. WOOD's Half-Pence.



IN your News-Letter of the First Instant there is a Paragraph Dated from *London, July 25th*, relating to *Wood's Half-pence*; whereby it is plain, what I foretold in my *Letter to the Shop-keepers, &c.* that this vile Fellow would never be at Rest, and that the Danger of our Ruin approaches nearer, and therefore the Kingdom requires NEW and FRESH WARNING; however I take that Paragraph to be, in a great Measure, an Imposition upon the Publick, at least I hope so, because I am informed that *Wood* is generally his own News-Writer. I cannot but observe from that Paragraph that this Publick Enemy of ours, not satisfied to Ruin us with his Trash, takes every Occasion

Occasion to treat this Kingdom with the utmost Contempt. He Represents *Several of our Merchants and Traders upon Examination before a Committee of a Council, agreeing that there was the utmost Necessity of Copper-Money here, before his Patent, so that several Gentlemen have been forced to Talley with their Workmen, and give them Bits of Cards Sealed and Subscribed with their Names.* What then? If a Physician, prescribe to a Patient a *Dram* of Physick, shall a Rascal Apothecary Cram him with a *Pound*, and mix it up with *Poyson*? And is not a Landlord's Hand and Seal to his own Labourers a better Security for Five or Ten Shillings, than *Wood's* Brass Seven Times below the Real Value, can be to the Kingdom, for an Hundred and Four Thousand Pounds?

But who are these *Merchants and Traders of Ireland* that make this Report of *the utmost Necessity we are under of Copper Money*? They are only a few Betrayers of their Country, Confederates with *Wood*, from whom they are to purchase a great Quantity of his Coin, perhaps at half Value, and vend it among us to the Ruin of the Publick, and their own private Advantage. Are not these excellent Witnesses, upon whose Integrity the Fate of a Kingdom must depend, who are Evidences in their own Cause, and Sharrers in this Work of Iniquity?

If we could have deserved the Liberty of Coining for our selves, as we formerly did, (and why we have not *is every Body's Wonder as well as mine*) Ten Thousand Pounds might have been Coined here in *Dublin* of only one Fifth below the Intrinsic Value, and this Sum, with the Stock of Half-pence we then had, would have been sufficient: But *Wood* by his Emissaries, Enemies to God and this Kingdom, hath taken Care to Buy up as many of our old Half-pence as he could, and from thence the present Want of Change arises; to remove which, by Mr. *Wood's* Remedy, would be, to Cure a Scratch on the Finger by Cutting off the Arm. But supposing there were not one Farthing of Change in the whole Nation, I will maintain, that Five and Twenty Thousand Pounds would be a Sum fully sufficient to answer all our Occasions. I am no inconsiderable Shop-Keeper in this Town, I have discoursed with several of my own and other Trades, with many Gentlemen both of City and Country, and also with great Numbers of Farmers, Cottagers, and Labourers, who all agree that two Shillings in Change for every Family would be more than necessary in all Dealings. Now by the largest Computation (even before that grievous Discouragement of *Agriculture*, which hath so much lessened our Numbers) the Souls in this Kingdom are computed to be  
 One

One Million and a half, which, allowing but Six to a Family, makes Two hundred and Fifty thousand Families, and consequently Two Shillings to each Family will amount only to Five and Twenty thousand Pounds, whereas this *Honest Liberal Hard-ware-Man Wood*, would impose upon us above *Four Times* that Sum.

Your Paragraph relates further, that Sir *Isaac Newton* Reported an *Assay* taken at the *Tower*, of *Wood's* Metal, by which it appears, that *Wood* had in all respects performed his Contract. His Contract! With whom? Was it with the Parliament or People of *Ireland*? Are not they to be the Purchasers? But they detest, abhor, and reject it, as Corrupt, Fraudulent, mingled with Dirt and Trash. Upon which he grows Angry, goes to Law, and will impose his Goods upon us by Force.

But your News-Letter says that an *Assay* was made of the Coin. How impudent and insupportable is this? *Wood* takes Care to Coin a Dozen or Two Half-pence of good Metal, sends them to the *Tower* and they are approved, and these must answer all that he hath already Coin-ed or shall Coin for the future. It is true indeed, that a Gentleman often sends to my Shop for a *Pattern* of Stuff, I cut it fairly off, and if he likes it, he comes or sends and compares the *Pattern* with the whole Piece, and probably we

come to a Bargain. But if I were to buy an Hundred Sheep, and the Grazier should bring me one single Weather fat and well Fleeced by Way of *Pattern*, and expect the same Price round for the whole Hundred, without suffering me to see them before he was payed, or giving me good Security to restore my Money for those that were *Lean* or *Sborn* or *Scabby*, I would be none of his Customer. I have heard of a Man who had a Mind to sell his House, and therefore carried a Piece of *Brick* in his Pocket, which he shewed as a *Pattern* to encourage Purchasers: And this is directly the Case in Point with Mr. *Wood's ASSAY*.

The next Part of the Paragraph contains Mr. *Wood's* voluntary Proposals for *preventing any future Objections or Apprehensions*.

His First Proposal is, that *whereas he hath already Coined Seventeen thousand Pounds, and has Copper prepared to make it up Forty thousand Pounds, he will be content to Coin no more, unless the EXIGENCES OF TRADE REQUIRE IT, though his Patent empowers him to Coin a far greater Quantity.*

To which if I were to Answer it should be thus: Let Mr. *Wood* and his Crew of *Founders* and *Finkers* Coin on till there is not an old Kettle left in the Kingdom; let them Coin old Leather, Tobacco-pipe Clay, or the Dirt in the  
Streets,

Streets, and call their Trumpery by what Name they please from a Guinea to a Farthing, we are not under any Concern to know how he and his Tribe or Accomplices think fit to employ themselves. But I hope and trust, that we are all to a Man fully determined to have nothing to do with him or his Ware.

The King has given him a Patent to Coin Half-pence, but hath not obliged us to take them, and I have already shewn in my *Letter to the Shop-keepers, &c.* that the Law hath not left it in the Power of the *Prerogative* to compel the Subject to take any Money, beside Gold and Silver of the Right Sterling and Standard.

*Wood* further proposes, (if I understand him right, for his Expressions are Dubious) that *he will not Coin above Forty Thousand Pounds unless* THE EXIGENCES OF TRADE REQUIRE IT: First, I observe that this Sum of *Forty Thousand Pounds* is almost double to what I proved to be sufficient for the whole Kingdom, although we had not one of our old Half-pence left. Again I ask, who is to be Judge when the EXIGENCES OF TRADE REQUIRE IT? Without doubt he means himself, for as to us of this poor Kingdom, who must be utterly Ruined if his Project should succeed, we were never *Once* consulted till the Matter was over, and he will Judge of our EXI-

GENCES by his own; neither will these be ever at an End till he and his Accomplices will think they have enough: And it now appears that he will not be content with all our Gold and Silver, but intends to Buy up our Goods and Manufactures with the same Coin.

I shall not enter into Examination of the Prices for which he now proposes to sell his Halfpence or what he calls his Copper, by the Pound; I have said enough of it in my former Letter, and it hath likewise been considered by others. It is certain that by his own first Computation, we were to pay Three Shillings for what was intrinsically worth but One, although it had been of the true Weight and Standard for which he pretended to have Contracted; but there is so great a Difference both in Weight and Badness in several of his Coins, that some of them have been Nine in Ten below the Intrinsick Value, and most of them Six or Seven.

His last Proposal being of a peculiar Strain and Nature, deserves to be very particularly consider'd, both on Account of the Matter and the Style.. It is as follows.

*Lastly, in Consideration of the direful Apprehensions which prevail in Ireland, that Mr. Wood will by such Coinage drain them of their Gold and Silver, he proposes to take their Manufactures in exchange, and that no Person be OB-*

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LIGED to receive more than Five-pence Half-penny at one Payment.

First, Observe this little Impudent *Hard-ware-Man* turning into ridicule *the Direful Apprehensions of a whole Kingdom*, priding himself as the Cause of them, and daring to prescribe what no King of *England* ever attempted, how far a whole Nation shall be obliged to take his Brass Coin. And he has Reason to Insult; for sure there was never an Example in History, of a great Kingdom kept in Awe for above a Year in daily Dread of utter Destruction, not by a powerful Invader at the Head of Twenty thousand Men, not by a Plague or a Famine, not by a Tyrannical Prince (for we never had one more Gracious) or a corrupt Administration, but by one single, Diminutive, Insignificant, Mechanick.

But to go on. To remove our DIREFUL APPREHENSIONS *that he will Drain us of our Gold and Silver by his Coinage*, this little Arbitrary *Mock-Monarch* most Graciously offers to *take our Manufactures in Exchange*. Are our *Irish* Understandings indeed so low in his Opinion? Is not this the very Misery we complain of? That his cursed Project will put us under the Necessity of selling our Goods for what is equal to *Nothing*. How would such a Proposal Sound from *France* or *Spain*, or any other Country we deal



deal with, if they should offer to deal with us only upon this Condition, that we should take their Money at Ten Times higher than the intrinsic Value? Does Mr. *Wood* think, for Instance, that we will sell him a Stone of Wool for a Parcel of his *Counters* not worth *Six-Pence*, when we can send it to *England* and receive as many Shillings in Gold and Silver? Surely there was never heard such a Compound of Impudence, Villany and Folly.

His Proposals Conclude with perfect *Higb-Treason*. He promises, that no Person shall be OBLIGED to receive more than Five-pence Half-penny of his Coin in one Payment: By which it is plain, that he pretends to OBLIGE every Subject in this Kingdom to take so much in every Payment, if it be offered; whereas his Patent *Obliges* no Man, nor can the Prerogative by Law claim such a Power, as I have often observed; so that here Mr. *Wood* takes upon him the *Entire Legislature*, and an absolute Dominion over the Properties of the whole Nation.

Good God! Who are this Wretch's *Advisers*? Who are his *Supporters*, *Abbettors*, *Encouragers*, or *Sbarers*? Mr. *Wood* will OBLIGE me to take Five-pence Half-penny of his Brads in every Payment. And I will Shoot Mr. *Wood* and his Deputies through the Head, like *Higb-way-Men* or *House-breakers*, if they dare to  
force

force one Farthing of their Coin upon me in the Payment of an Hundred Pounds. It is no Loss of Honour to submit to the *Lion*; but who, with the Figure of a *Man* can think with Patience of being Devoured alive by a *Rat*? He has laid a Tax upon the People of *Ireland* of Seventeen Shillings at least in the Pound; a Tax, I say, not only upon Lands, but Interest-Money, Goods, Manufactures, the Hire of Handicraftsmen, Labourers and Servants. Shop-Keepers, look to your selves. *Wood* will oblige and force you to take Five-pence Half-penny of his Trash in every Payment, and many of you receive Twenty, Thirty, Forty, Payments in one Day, or else you can hardly find Bread: And pray consider how much that will amount to in a Year; Twenty Times Five-pence Half-penny is Nine Shillings and Two-pence, which is above an Hundred and Sixty Pounds a Year, whereof you will be Losers of at least One hundred and Forty Pounds by taking your Payments in his Money. If any of you be content to Deal with Mr. *Wood* on such Conditions, they may. But for my own Particular, *Let his Money perish with him*. If the Famous Mr. *Hambden* rather chose to go to Prison, than pay a few Shillings to King *Charles* I. without Authority of Parliament; I will rather chuse to be *Hanged* than have all my Substance Taxed at Seventeen Shillings

lings in the Pound, at the Arbitrary Will and Pleasure of the Venerable Mr. *Wood*.

The Paragraph Concludes thus. N.B. (that is to say *Nota bene*, or *Mark well*) *No Evidence appeared from Ireland or elsewhere, to prove the Mischiefs complained of, or any Abuses whatsoever committed in the Execution of the said Grant.*

The Impudence of this Remark exceeds all that went before. First, the House of Commons in *Ireland*, which Represents the whole People of the Kingdom; and Secondly the Privy Council, Addressed his Majesty against these Half-pence. What could be done more to express the Universal Sense and Opinion of the Nation? If his Copper were Diamonds, and the Kingdom were intirely against it, would not That be sufficient to reject it? Must a Committee of the House of Commons, and our whole Privy Council go over to Argue *Pro* and *Con* with Mr. *Wood*? To what End did the King give his Patent for Coining of Half-pence in *Ireland*? Was it not, because it was represented to his Sacred Majesty, that such a Coinage would be of Advantage to the Good of this Kingdom, and of all his Subjects here? It is to the Patentee's Peril if his Representation be false, and the Execution of his Patent be Fraudulent and Corrupt. Is he so Wicked and Foolish to think that his  
 Paten

Patent was given him to Ruin a Million and a Half of People, that he might be a Gainer of Three or Fourscore Thousand Pounds to himself? Before he was at the Charge of Passing a Patent, much more of Raking up so much Filthy Dross, and Stamping it with his Majesty's *Image and Superscription*, should he not first in common Sense, in common Equity, and common Manners, have Consulted the principal Party concerned; that is to say, the People of the Kingdom, the House of Lords or Commons, or the Privy Council? If any Foreigner should ask us, *whose Image and Superscription* there is on *Wood's* Coyn, we should be ashamed to tell him; it was *Cæsar's*. In that great Want of Copper Half-pence, which he alledges we were, Our City set up *our Cæsar's* Stature in Excellent Copper, at an Expence that is Equal in Value to Thirty thousand Pounds of his Coin; and we will not receive his *Image* in worse Metal.

I observe many of your People putting a Melancholly Case on this Subject. It is true say they, we are all undone if *Wood's* Half-pence must pass; but what shall we do, if his Majesty puts out a *Proclamation* commanding us to take them? This has been often dinned in my Ears. But I desire my Country-men to be assured that there is nothing in it. The King never

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ver Issues out a *Proclamation* but to enjoyn what the *Law* permits him. He will not Issue out a *Proclamation* against *Law*, or if such a thing should happen by a Mistake, we are no more obliged to obey it than to run our Heads into the Fire. Besides, his Majesty will never command us by a *Proclamation*, what he does not offer to command us in the Patent it self. There he leaves it to our Discretion, so that our Destruction must be intirely owing to our selves. Therefore let no Man be afraid of a *Proclamation*, which will never be granted; and if it should, yet upon this Occasion, will be of no Force. The King's Revenues here are near Four Hundred Thousand Pounds a Year, can you think his Ministers will Advise him to take them in *Wood's* Brass, which will reduce the Value to Fifty thousand Pounds. *England* gets a Million Sterl. by this Nation, which, if this Project goes on, will be almost reduc'd to nothing: And do you think those who Live in *England* upon *Irish* Estates will be content to take an Eighth or a Tenth Part, by being payed in *Wood's* Dross.

If *Wood* and his *Confederates* were not convinced of our Stupidity, they never would have attempted so Audacious an Enterprize. He now sees a Spirit hath been raised against him, and he only watches till it begins to Flag, he

goes about *watching* when to *devour us*. He hopes we shall be weary of contending with him, and at last out of Ignorance, or Fear, or of being perfectly tyred with Opposition, we shall be forced to Yield. And therefore I confess it is my chief Endeavour to keep up your Spirits and Resentments. If I tell you there is a Precipice under you, and that if you go forwards you will certainly break your Necks. If I point to it before your Eyes, must I be at the Trouble of repeating it every Morning? Are our People's *Hearts waxed gross*? Are *their Ears dull of bearing*, and have *they closed their Eyes*? I fear there are some few *Vipers* among us, who, for Ten or Twenty Pounds Gain, would sell their Souls and their Country, though at last it would end in their own Ruin as well as Ours. Be not like *the Deaf Adder, who refuses to bear the Voice of the Charmer, charm he never so wisely*.

Though my Letter be directed to you, Mr. *Harding*, yet I intend it for all my Countrymen. I have no Interest in this Affair but what is common to the Publick; I can live better than many others, I have some Gold and Silver by me, and a Shop well furnished, and shall be able to make a Shift when many of my Betters are Starving. But I am grieved to see the  
Coldness

Coldness and Indifference of many People with whom I discourse. Some are afraid of a *Proclamation*, others shrug up their Shoulders, and cry, what would you have us to do? Some give out, there is no Danger at all. Others are comforted that it will be a common Calamity and they shall fare no worse than their Neighbours. Will a Man, who hears Midnight-Robbers at his Door, get out of Bed, and raise his Family for a common Defence, and shall a whole Kingdom lie in a Lethargy, while Mr. *Wood* comes at the Head of his *Confederates* to rob them of all they have, to ruin us and our Posterity for ever? If an High-way-man meets you on the Road, you give him your Money to save your Life; but, God be thanked, Mr. *Wood* cannot touch a Hair of your Heads. You have all the Laws of God and Man on your side. When he or his Accomplices offer you his Dross, it is but saying *No*, and you are Safe. If a Madman should come to my Shop with a Handful of Dirt raked out of the Kennel, and offer it in payment for Ten Yards of Stuff, I would Pity or Laugh at him, or, if his Behaviour deserved it, kick him out of my Doors. And if Mr. *Wood* comes to demand any Gold or Silver, or Commodities for which I have paid my Gold and Silver, in Exchange for his

his Trash, can he deserve or expect better Treatment?

When the *Evil Day* is come (if it must come) let us mark and observe those who presume to offer these Half-pence in Payment. Let their Names and Trades, and Places of Abode be made publick, that every one may be aware of them, as Betrayers of their Country, and Confederates with Mr. *Wood*. Let them be watched at Markets and Fairs, and let the first honest Discoverer give the Word about, that *Wood's* Half-pence have been offered, and caution the poor innocent People not to receive them.

Perhaps I have been too tedious; but there would never be an End, if I attempt to say all that this melancholly Subject will bear. I will Conclude with humbly offering one Proposal, which if it were put in Practice, would blow up this destructive Project at once. Let some Skilful Judicious Pen draw up an ADVERTISEMENT to the following Purpose. That

*Whereas one William Wood Hard-ware-Man, now or lately sojourning in the City of London, hath, by many Misrepresentations, procured a Patent for coining an hundred and forty thousand Pounds in Copper Half-pence for this Kingdom, which is a Sum five Times greater*

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than



than our Occasions require. And whereas it is notorious that the said Wood hath coyned his Half-pence of such base Metal and false Weight, that they are, at least, six Parts in seven below the real Value. And whereas we have Reason to apprehend, that the said Wood may, at any Time hereafter, clandestinely coyn as many more Half-pence as he pleases. And whereas the said Patent neither doth nor can oblige his Majesty's Subjects to receive the said Half-pence in any Payment, but leaves it to their voluntary Choice, because, by Law the Subject cannot be obliged to take any Money except Gold or Silver. And whereas contrary to the Letter and Meaning of the said Patent, the said Wood hath declared that every Person shall be obliged to take Five-pence Half-penny of his Coin in every Payment. And whereas the House of Commons and Privy-Council have severally addressed his most sacred Majesty representing the ill Consequences which the said Coinage may have upon this Kingdom. And lastly, whereas it is universally agreed, that the whole Nation to a Man (except Mr. Wood and his Confederates) are in the utmost Apprehensions of the Ruinous Consequences, that must follow from the said Coinage. Therefore we whose Names are underwritten, being Persons of considerable Estates in this Kingdom, and Residers therein, do unanimously resolve and declare that

that we will never receive, one Farthing or Half-penny of the said Wood's Coyning; and that we will direct all our Tenants to refuse the said Coyn from any Person whatsoever; of which that they may not be ignorant, we have sent them a Copy of this Advertisement, to be read to them by our Stewards Receivers, &c.

I could wish, that a Paper of this Nature might be drawn up, and signed by two or three hundred principal Gentlemen of this Kingdom, and printed Copies thereof sent to their several Tenants; I am deceived, if any thing could sooner defeat this execrable Design of *Wood* and his *Accomplices*. This would immediately give the Alarm, and set the Kingdom on their Guard. This would give Courage to the meanest Tenant and Cottager. *How long, O Lord, righteous and true —*

I must tell you in particular, Mr. *Harding*, that you are much to blame. Several hundred Persons have enquired at your House for my *Letter to the Shop-Keepers*, &c. and you had none to sell them. Pray keep your self provided with that Letter and with this; you have got very well by the former, but I did not then write for your Sake, any more than I do now. Pray Advertise both in every News-  
F 2
Paper,

Paper, and let it not be your Fault or Mine;  
if our Country-Men will not take Warning.  
I desire you likewise to Sell them as Cheap as  
you can.

*I am your Servant,*

Aug. 4. 1724.

M. B.



SOME

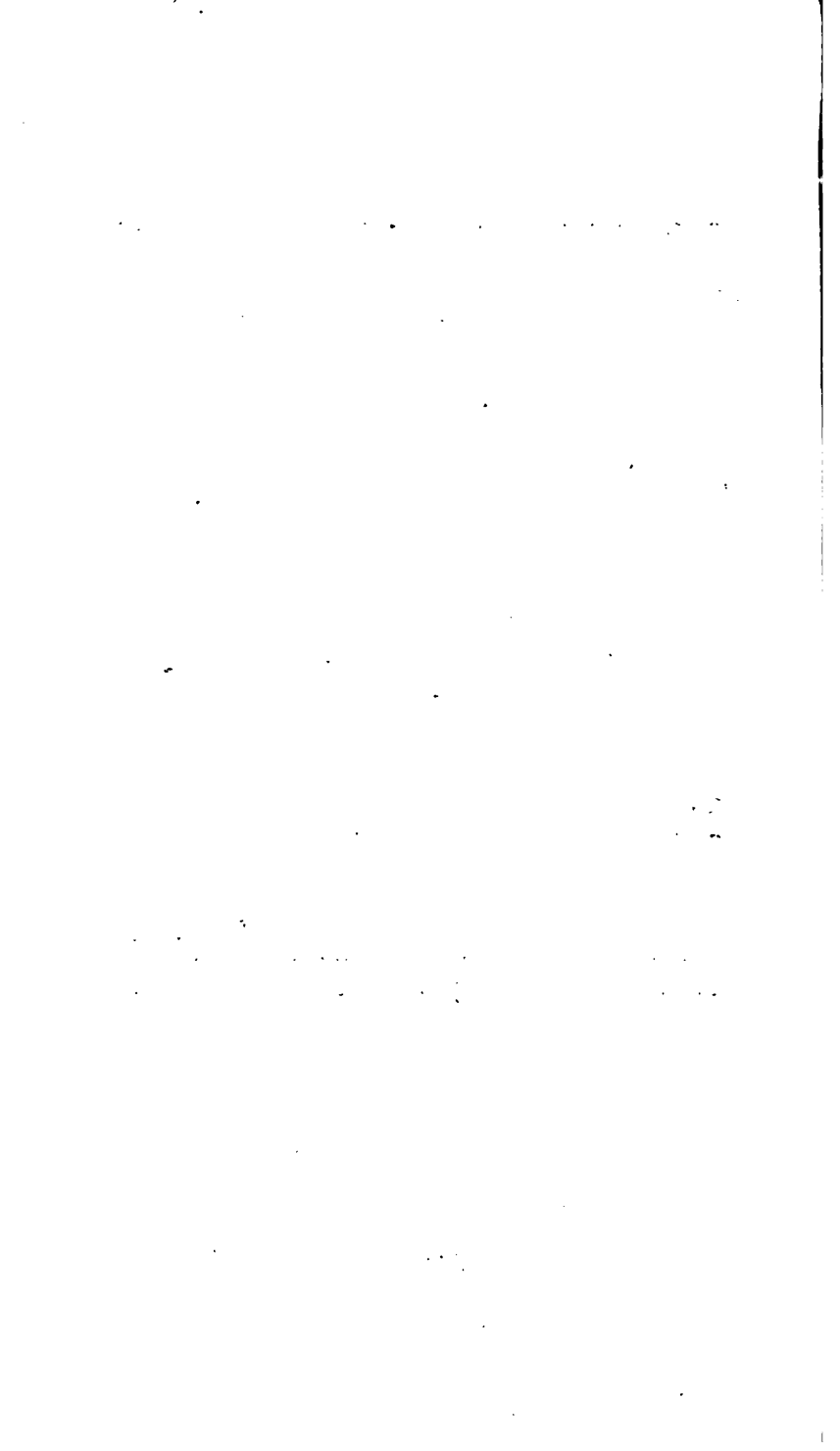


SOME  
OBSERVATIONS  
UPON A  
PAPER,  
CALLED

The REPORT of the COMMITTEE  
OF

The most Honourable the *Privy-Council* in  
ENGLAND relating to WOOD'S *Half-pence*.







Some Observations upon a PAPER,  
call'd, the REPORT of the COM-  
MITTEE of the most Honourable  
the *Privy-Council* in ENGLAND,  
relating to WOOD'S *Half-pence*.

*To the Nobility and Gentry of the Kingdom  
of IRELAND.*



HAVING already written *Two Letters* to People of my own Level, and Condition; and having now very pressing Occasion for writing a *Third*; I thought I could not more properly Address it than to *Your Lordships* and *Worships*.

The Occasion is this. A printed Paper was sent to me on the 18th Instant, Entitled, *A REPORT of the COMMITTEE of the LORDS His MAJESTY'S most Honourable PRIVY COUNCIL in England, relating to Mr. WOOD'S HALF-PENCE and FARTHING*S. There is no

Mention made where the Paper was printed, but I suppose it to have been in *Dublin*, and I have been told that the Copy did not come over in the *Gazette*, but in the *London Journal*, or some other Print of no Authority or Consequence; and for any thing that Legally appears to the contrary, it may be a Contrivance to *Fright* us, or a *Project* of some *Printer*, who hath a Mind to make a Penny by Publishing something upon a Subject, which now employs all our Thoughts in this *Kingdom*. Mr. WOOD in publishing this Paper would insinuate to the World, as if the *Committee* had a greater Concern for his Credit and Private Emolument, than for the Honour of the *Privy-Council* and both *Houses of Parliament* Here, and for the Quiet and Welfare of this whole *Kingdom*: For it seems intended as a Vindication of Mr. WOOD not without several severe Remarks on the Houses of *Lords* and *Commons of Ireland*.

The whole is indeed written with the Turn and Air of a Pamphlet, as if it were a Dispute between WILLIAM WOOD on the one Part, and the *Lords Justices, Privy-Council* and *Both Houses of Parliament* on the other; the Design of it being to Clear and Vindicate the Injured Reputation of WILLIAM WOOD, and to Charge  
the

the other Side with casting Rash and Groundless Aspersions upon him.

But if it be really what the Title imports, Mr. WOOD hath treated the COMMITTEE with great Rudeness, by Publishing an Act of theirs in so unbecoming a Manner, without their Leave, and before it was communicated to the *Government* and *Privy-Council* of *Ireland*, to whom the Committee advised that it should be transmitted. But with all Deference be it spoken, I do not conceive that a Report of a Committee of the Council in *England*, is *Hitherto* a Law in either *Kingdom*; and until any Point is determined to be a LAW, it remains disputable by every Subject.

This (May it please your *Lordships* and *Worships*) may seem a strange Way of discoursing in an *Illiterate Shop-Keeper*. I have endeavoured (although without the Help of Books) to improve that small Portion of Reason which GOD hath pleased to give me, and when Reason plainly appears before me, I cannot turn away my Head from it. Thus for Instance, if any Lawyer should tell me that such a Point were Law, from which many Gross Palpable Absurdities must follow, I would not, I could not believe him. If Sir *Edward Coke* should positively assert (which he no where does, but the direct contrary) that a *Limited Prince*,  
could



could by his *Prerogative* oblige his Subjects to take half an Ounce of Lead, stamped with His Image, for Twenty Shillings in Gold, I should Swear he was *deceived* or a *Deceiver*, because a Power like that, would leave the whole Lives and Fortunes of the People entirely at the Mercy of the Monarch: Yet this, in Effect, is what *Wood* hath advanced in some of his Papers, and what suspicious People may possibly apprehend from some Passages in that which is called the *Report*.

That Paper mentions *Such Persons to have been Examined, who were Desirous and Willing to be heard upon that Subject*. I am told, they were four in all, *Coleby, Brown, Mr. Finley* the Banker, and one more whose Name I know not. The first of these was tryed for Robbing the Treasury in *Ireland*; and although he were acquitted for want of Legal Proof, yet every Person in the Court believed him to be Guilty. The second was tryed for a *Rape*, and stands Recorded in the Votes of the House of Commons, for endeavouring by *Perjury* and *Subornation*, to take away the Life of *John Bingham, Esq;*

But since I have gone so far as to mention particular Persons, it may be some Satisfaction to know who is this *WOOD* himself, that has the Honour to have a whole Kingdom at his  
Mercy,

Mercy, for almost Two Years together. I find he is in the Patent Entitled, *Esq;* although he were understood to be only a *Hard-Ware-Man*, and so I have been bold to call him in my former Letters; however a 'Squire he is, not only by Virtue of his Patent, but by having been a Collector in *Shropshire*, where pretending to have been Robbed, and suing the County, he was Cast, and for the Infamy of the Fact, lost his Employment.

I have heard another Story of this 'Squire *Wood*, from a very honourable Lady, That one *Hamilton* told her. He (*Hamilton*) was sent for Six Years ago by Sir *Isaac Newton* to Try the Coynage of Four Men, who then solicited a Patent for Coining Half-pence for *Ireland*; their Names were *Wood*, *Coster*, *Ellison*, and *Parker*. *Parker* made the fairest Offer, and *Wood* the worst, for his Coin were Three Half-pence in a Pound less Value than the other. By which it is plain with what Intentions he solicited this Patent, but not so plain how he obtained it.

It is alledged in the said Paper, called the *Report*, that upon repeated Orders from a Secretary of State, for sending over such Papers and Witnesses, as should be thought proper to Support the Objections made against the Patent (by both Houses of Parliament) the *Lord Lieutenant*

*tenant Represented The great Difficulty he found himself in to comply with these Orders. That none of the Principal Members of Both Houses, who were in the King's Service or Council, would take upon them to advise how any Material Person or Papers might be sent over on this Occasion, &c. And this is often Repeated and Represented as a Proceeding that seems very Extraordinary, and that in a Matter which had raised so great a CLAMOUR in Ireland, no one Person could be prevailed upon to come over from Ireland, in Support of the United Sense of both Houses of Parliament in Ireland; especially that the chief Difficulty should arise from a General Apprehension of a Miscarriage, in an Enquiry before his Majesty, or in a Proceeding by due Course of Law, in a Case where both Houses of Parliament had declared themselves so fully convinced, and satisfied upon Evidence, and Examinations taken in the most Solemn Manner.*

How shall I, a poor Ignorant Shop-Keeper, utterly unskill'd in Law, be able to answer so weighty an Objection? I will try what can be done by plain Reason, unassisted by Art, Cunning or Eloquence.

In my humble Opinion, the Committee of Council, hath already prejudg'd the whole Case, by calling the United Sense of both Houses of Parliament in Ireland an UNIVERSAL CLA-

MOUR.

MOUR. Here the Addresses of the Lords and Commons of *Ireland* against a Ruinous Destructive Project of an *Obscure, Single Undertaker*, is called a CLAMOUR. I desire to know how such a Style would be Resented in *England* from a Committee of Council there to a Parliament, and how many *Impeachments* would follow upon it. But supposing the Appellation to be proper, I never heard of a wise Minister who despised the UNIVERSAL CLAMOUR of a People, and if that *Clamour* can be quieted by disappointing the Fraudulent Practice of a single Person, the Purchase is not Exorbitant.

But in Answer to this Objection. First it is manifest, that if this Coinage had been in *Ireland*, with such Limitations as have been formerly specified in other Patents, and granted to Persons of this Kingdom, or even of *England*, able to give sufficient Security, few or no Inconveniencies could have happened, which might not have been immediately remedied. As to Mr. *Knox's* Patent mentioned in the Report, Security was given into the Exchequer, that the Patentee should at any Time receive his Half-pence back, and pay Gold or Silver in Exchange for them. And Mr. *Moor* (to whom I suppose that Patent was made over) was in 1694 forced to leave off Coining before the End of that Year, by the great Crouds of People

ple continually offering to return his Coinage upon him. In 1698 he Coined again, and was forced to give over for the same Reason. This entirely alters the Case; for there is no such Condition in Wood's Patent; which Condition was worth a Hundred Times all other Limitations whatsoever.

Put the Case, that the two Houses of *Lords and Commons of England*, and the *PRIVY COUNCIL* there should address his Majesty to recal a Patent, from whence they apprehend the most ruinous Consequences to the whole Kingdom: And to make it stronger, if possible, that the whole Nation, almost to a Man, should thereupon Discover the *most Dismal Apprehensions* (as Mr. Wood styles them;) would his Majesty debate half an Hour what he had to do? Would any Minister dare advise him against recalling such a Patent? Or would the Matter be referred to the *Privy Council* or to *Westminster-Hall*, the two Houses of *Parliament Plaintiffs*, and *William Wood Defendant*? And is there even the smallest Difference between the two Cases?

Were not the People of *Ireland* born as *Free* as those of *England*? How have they forfeited their Freedom? Is not their *Parliament* as fair a *Representative* of the *People* as that of *England*? And hath not their *Privy Council* as  
great

great or a greater Share in the Administration of Publick Affairs? Are they not Subjects of the same King? Does not the same *Sun* shine over them? And have they not the same *God* for their Protector? Am I a *Free-Man* in *England*, and do I become a *Slave* in six Hours by crossing the Channel? No Wonder then, if the boldest Persons were cautious to interpose in a Matter already determined by the whole Voice of the Nation, or to presume to represent the Representatives of the Kingdom, and were justly apprehensive of meeting such a Treatment as they would deserve at the next Session. It would seem very extraordinary if an Inferiour Court in *England* should take a Matter out of the Hands of the High Court of Parliament, during a Prorogation, and decide it against the Opinion of both Houses.

It happens however, that, although no Persons were so bold, as to go over as Evidences, to prove the Truth of the Objections made against this Patent by the *High Court of Parliament* here, yet these Objections stand Good, notwithstanding the Answers made by *Wood* and his COUNCIL.

The *Report* says, that upon an *Affay* made of the *Fineness, Weight and Value* of this Copper, it exceeded in every *Article*. This is possible enough in the Pieces upon which the *Affay* was

was made; but *Wood* must have failed very much in Point of Dexterity, if he had not taken Care to provide a sufficient Quantity of such Half-pence as would bear the Tryal; which he was well able to do, although *they were taken out of several Parcels*. Since it is now Plain, that the Bias of Favour hath been wholly on his Side.

But what need is there of disputing, when we have a positive Demonstration of *Wood's* Fraudulent Practices in this Point. I have seen a large Quantity of these Half-pence weighed by a very skilful Person, which were of Four Different Kinds, Three of them considerably under weight. I have now before me an exact Computation of the Difference of Weight between these Four Sorts, by which it appears that the Fourth Sort, or the Lightest, differs from the First to a Degree, that, in the Coinage of Three hundred and sixty Tuns of Copper, the Patentee will be a Gainer, only by that Difference, of Twenty Four Thousand Four hundred and ninety four Pounds, and in the whole, the Publick will be a Loser of Eighty two thousand one hundred and sixty eight Pounds, Sixteen Shillings, even supposing the Metal in Point of Goodness to answer *Wood's* Contract and the *Affay* that hath been made; which it infallibly doth not. For this Point hath likewise been enquired into by very Experienced Men, who, upon several Try-  
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als in many of these Half-pence, have found them to be at least one Fourth Part below the Real Value (not including the *Raps* or *Counterfeits* that he or his Accomplices have already made of *his own Coin*, and scattered about) Now the Coinage of Three hundred and sixty Tun of Copper coined by the Weight of the Fourth or Lightest Sort of his Half-pence will amount to One hundred twenty two thousand four hundred eighty eight Pounds, Sixteen Shillings; and if we subtract a Fourth Part of the real Value by the *Base Mixture* in the Metal, we must add to the publick Loss one fourth part, to be subtracted from the Intrinsic Value of the Copper, which in Three hundred and sixty Tuns amounts to Ten thousand and eighty Pounds, and this added to the former Sum of Eighty two thousand one hundred sixty eight Pounds, Sixteen Shillings, will make in all, Ninety two thousand two hundred forty eight Pounds Loss to the publick; besides the *Raps* or *Counterfeits* that he may at any time hereafter think fit to Coin. Nor do I know whether he reckons the Dross Exclusive or Inclusive with his Three hundred and sixty Tun of Copper; which however will make a considerable Difference in the Account.

You will here please to observe, that the profit allowed to *Wood* by the Patent is Twelve-pence out of every Pound of Copper valued at



1 s. 6 d. whereas 5 d. only is allowed for Coinage of a Pound-Weight for the *English* Half-pence, and this Difference is almost 25 *per Cent.* which is double to the highest Exchange of Money, even under all the Additional Pressures, and Obstructions to Trade, that this unhappy Kingdom lies at present. This one Circumstance in the Coinage of Three hundred and sixty Tun of Copper makes a Difference of Twenty seven thousand seven hundred and twenty Pounds between *English* and *Irish* Half-pence, even allowing those of *Wood* to be all of the heaviest Sort.

It is likewise to be considered, that for every Half-penny in a Pound Weight, exceeding the Number directed by the Patent, *Wood* will be a Gainer in the Coinage of Three hundred and sixty Tun of Copper, Sixteen hundred and eighty Pounds Profit more than the Patent allows him; out of which he may afford to make his *Comptrollers* EASY upon that Article.

As to what is alledged, that *these Half-pence far exceed the like Coinage for Ireland in the Reigns of his Majesty's Predecessors.*: There cannot well be a more exceptionable Way of Arguing, although the Fact were true, which however is altogether mistaken; not by any Fault in the *Committee*, but by the Fraud and Imposition of *Wood*, who certainly produced the  
 worst

worst Patterns he could find, such as were coined in small Numbers by *Permissions to Private Men*, as *Butchers Half-pence*, *Black Dogs* and the Like, or perhaps the small *St. Patrick's Coin* which passed for a Farthing, or at best some of the smallest *Raps* of the latest Kind. For I have now by me some Half-pence coined in the Year 1680 by virtue of the Patent granted to my Lord *Dartmouth*, which was renewed to *Knox*, and they are heavier by a ninth Part than those of *Wood*, and in much better Metal. And the great *St. Patrick's Half-penny* is yet larger than either.

But what is all this to the present Debate? If under the various Exigencies of former Times, by Wars, Rebellions, and Insurrections, the Kings of *England* were sometimes forced to pay their Armies here with mixt or base Money, God forbid that the Necessities of turbulent Times should be a Precedent for Times of Peace, and Order, and Settlement.

In the Patent above mentioned granted to Lord *Dartmouth*, in the Reign of King *Charles II.* and renewed to *Knox*, the Securities given into the *Exchequer*, obliging the *Patentee* to receive his Money back upon every Demand, were an effectual Remedy against all Inconveniencies. And the Copper was coined in our own Kingdom, so that we were in no Danger to purchase it with the

Loss of all our Silver and Gold carried over to another, nor to be at the Trouble of going to *England* for the Redressing of any Abuse.

That the Kings of *England* have exercised their Prerogative of Coining Copper for *Ireland* and for *England*, is not the present Question: But (to speak in the Style of the Report) it would seem a little extraordinary, supposing a King should think fit to exercise his *Prerogative* by Coining Copper in *Ireland*, to be current in *England*, without referring it to his Officers in that Kingdom, to be informed whether the Grant was reasonable, and whether the People desir'd it or no, and without regard to the Addresses of his Parliament against it: God forbid that so mean a Man as I should meddle with the King's *Prerogative*; but I have heard very wise Men say, that the King's *Prerogative* is bounded and limited by the *Good and Welfare* of his *People*. I desire to know, whether it is not understood and avowed that the Good of *Ireland* was intended by this Patent. But *Ireland* is not consulted at all in the Matter, and as soon as *Ireland* is inform'd of it, they declare against it; the *Two Houses of Parliament* and the *Privy Council* address his Majesty upon the Mischiefs apprehended by such a Patent. The *Privy Council* in *England* take the Matter out of the PARLIAMENT'S Cognizance; the Good of the Kingdom

dom is dropt, and it is now determined that Mr. *Wood* shall have the Power of Ruining a whole Nation for his private Advantage.

I never can suppose that such Patents as these were originally granted with the View of being a *JOB* for the interest of a Particular Person, to the Damage of the Publick: Whatever Profit must arise to the Patentee was surely meant at best but as a Secondary Motive, and since somebody must be a Gainer, the Choice of the Person was made either by Favour, or SOMETHING ELSE, or by the Pretence of Merit and Honesty. This Argument returns so often and strongly into my Head, that I cannot forbear frequently repeating it. Surely his Majesty, when he consented to the Passing of this Patent, *Conceived* he was doing an Act of Grace to his Most Loyal Subjects of *Ireland*, without any Regard to Mr. *Wood*, farther than as an *Instrument*. But the People of *Ireland* think this Patent (intended NO DOUBT for their Good) to be a most intolerable Grievance, and therefore Mr. *Wood* can never succeed, without an open Avowal that his Profit is preferred not only before the *Interests*, but the very *Safety* and *Being* of a great Kingdom; and a Kingdom distinguished for its Loyalty, perhaps above all others upon Earth: Not turned from its Duty by the *Jurisdiction* of the *House of Lords* abolish'd at a Stroke, by the

*Hardships of the Act of Navigation newly enforced, by all possible Obstructions in Trade, and by a Hundred other Instances, enough to fill this Paper. Nor was there ever among us the least Attempt towards an Insurrection in Favour of the PRETENDER. Therefore whatever Justice a FREE PEOPLE can Claim we have at least an Equal Title to it with our Brethren in England, and whatever Grace a good Prince can bestow on the most Loyal Subjects, we have Reason to expect it; Neither hath this Kingdom any way deserved to be Sacrificed to one Single, Rapacious, Obscure, Ignominious PROJECTOR.*

Among other Clauses mentioned in this *Patent*; to shew how Advantagious it is to *Ireland*, there is one which seems to be of a *Singular Nature*; that the *Patentee* shall be obliged during his Term, to pay *Eight hundred Pounds a Year to the Crown, and Two hundred Pounds a Year to the Comptroller.* I have heard indeed that the King's Council do always consider, in the Passing of a Patent, whether it will be of Advantage to the Crown, but I have likewise heard that it is at the same Time considered whether Passing of it may be injurious to any other Persons or Bodies Politick; However, although the Attorney and Solicitor be Servants to the King, and therefore bound to consult his Majesty's Interest, yet I am under some Doubt whether *Eight hundred Pounds a*  
Year

Year to the Crown would be equivalent to the Ruin of a Kingdom. It would be far better for us to have paid Eight thousand Pounds a Year into his Majesty's Coffers, in the midst of all our Taxes (which, in Proportion, are greater in this Kingdom than ever they were in *England*, even during the War) than purchase such an Addition to the Revenue at the Price of our **UTTER UNDOING.**

But here it is plain, that Fourteen thousand Pounds are to be paid by *Wood*, only as a *Small Circumstantial Charge* for the Purchase of his Patent, what were his other *Visible Costs* I know not, and what were his *Latent*, is variously conjectured. But he must be surely a Man of some wonderful Merit. Hath he saved any other Kingdom at his own Expence, to give him a Title of Re-imbursing himself by the *Destruction* of ours? Hath he discovered the *Longitude* or the *Universal Medicine*? No, but he hath found out the *Philosopher's Stone* after a-new Manner, by *Debasing* of Copper, and resolving to force it upon us for *Gold*.

When the Two Houses represented to his Majesty, that this *Patent* to *WOOD* was obtain'd in a *Clandestine Manner*, surely the Committee could not think the Parliament would insinuate that it had not passed in the common Forms, and run through every Office where Fees and

Perquisites were due: They knew very well that Persons in Places were no Enemies to Grants, and that the Officers of the Crown could not be kept in the Dark. But the *Late Lord Lieutenant of Ireland* affirmed it was a *Secret* to him (and who will doubt of his VERACITY, especially when he Swore to a Person of Quality, from whom I had it, that *Ireland* should never be troubled with these Half-pence.) It was a *Secret* to the People of *Ireland*, who were to be the *Only Sufferers*; and those who best knew the State of the Kingdom, and were most able to advise in such an Affair, were wholly Strangers to it.

It is allowed by the *Report* that this *Patent* was passed without the Knowledge of the Chief Governor or Officers of *Ireland*: And it is there elaborately shewn, that *Former Patents have passed in the same Manner, and are good in Law.* I shall not dispute the Legality of Patents, but am ready to suppose it in his Majesty's Power to grant a Patent for Stamping Round Bits of Copper to every Subject he hath. Therefore to lay aside the Point of Law, I would only put the Question, whether in *Reason* and *Justice* it would not have been proper, in an Affair upon which the *Welfare of a Kingdom depends*, that the said Kingdom should have received timely Notice, and the Matter not be carried on between the  
*Patentee*

*Patentee* and the *Officers of the CROWN*, who were to be the only Gainers by it.

The Parliament, who in Matters of this Nature are the most able and Faithful Counsellors, did represent this Grant to be *destructive of Trade, and Dangerous to the Properties of the People*, to which the only Answer is, That *the King hath a Prerogative to make such a Grant*.

It is asserted, that in the Patent to *Knox*, His *Half-pence*, are made and declared the *Current Coin of the Kingdom*, whereas in this to *Wood*, there is only a *Power given to issue them to such as will receive them*. The Authors of the *Report*, I think, do not affirm that the King can by Law Declare *any thing* to be *Current Money* by his Letters Patents. I dare say they will not affirm it, and if *Knox's* Patent contained in it, Powers contrary to Law, why is it mentioned as a Precedent in his Majesty's *Just and Merciful Reign*? But although that Clause be not in *Wood's* Patent, yet possibly there are others, the Legality whereof may be equally doubted, and particularly that, whereby *a Power is given to William Wood to break into Houses in search of any Coin made in Imitation of His*. This may perhaps be affirmed to be *Illegal and Dangerous to the Liberty of the Subject*. Yet this is a *Precedent* taken from *Knox's* Patent, where the same  
Power



Power is granted, and is a Strong Instance what Uses may be sometimes made of *Precedents*.

But although before the Passing of this Patent, it was not thought necessary to consult any Persons of this Kingdom, or make the least Enquiry whether Copper Money were wanted among us; Yet now at length, when the Matter is over, when the Patent hath long passed, when *Wood* hath already coined Seventeen thousand Pounds and hath his Tools and Implements prepared to Coin *Six-times* as much more; the Committee hath been pleased to make this Affair the Subject of Enquiry. *Wood* is permitted to produce his Evidences, which consist as I have already observed, of Four in Number, whereof *Coleby*, *Brown* and Mr. *Finley* the Banker are Three. And these were to prove that Copper Money was Extreemly wanted in *Ireland*. The first had been out of the Kingdom almost Twenty Years, from the time that he was tryed for *Robbing the Treasury*, and therefore his *Knowledge* and *Credibility* are equal. The Second may be allowed a more *Knowing* Witness, because I think it is not above a Year since the House of Commons ordered the Attorney General to prosecute him, for endeavouring *to take away the Life of John Bingham, Esq; Member of Parliament, by Perjury and Subornation*. He asserted that he was forced to Tally with his Labourers for want of  
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Small Money (which hath often been practised in *England* by Sir *Ambrose Crowley* and others) but those who knew him better give a different reason, (if there be any Truth at all in the Fact) that he was forced to Tally with his Labourers, not for want of Half-pence, but of *more Substantial Money*, which is highly possible, because the Race of *Suborners, Forgers, Perjurors* and *Ravishers*, are usually People of no Fortune, or of those who have Run it out by their Vices and Profuseness. Mr. *Finley* the Third Witness honestly confessed, that he was Ignorant whether *Ireland* wanted Copper Money or no; but all his Intention was to buy a certain Quantity from *Wood* at a *large Discount*, and sell them as well as he could, by which he hoped to get Two or Three Thousand Pounds for himself.

But suppose there was not one Single Half-penny of Copper Coin in this whole Kingdom, (which Mr. *Wood* seems to intend, unless we will come to his Terms, as appears by employing his Emissaries to buy up our Old ones at a Penny in the Shilling more than they pass for) it could not be any *real Evil* to us, although it might be some *Inconvenience*. We have many sorts of small Silver Coins, to which they are Strangers in *England*, such as the French *Three-pences, Four-pence half-pennys* and *Eight-pence-farthings*, the *Scotch Five-pences* and *Ten-pences*, besides by  
all

all their *Twenty-pences*, and *Three* and *Four-pences*, which we are able to make Change to a Half-penny of almost any piece of Gold or Silver; and if we were driven to *Brown's* Expedient of a *Sealed Card*, with the little Gold or Silver still remaining, it will I suppose, be somewhat better than to have nothing left but *Wood's* Adulterated Copper, which he is neither *obliged* by his *Patent*, nor hitherto *able* by his *Estate* to make good.

The Report farther tells us, it *must be admitted that Letters Patents under the great Seal of Great Britain for Coining Copper Money for Ireland are Legal and Obligatory, a Just and Reasonable Exercise of his Majesty's Royal Prerogative, and in no manner Derogatory or Invasive of any Liberty or Privilege of his Subjects of Ireland.* First we desire to know, why his Majesty's *Prerogative* might not have been as well asserted, by passing this Patent in *Ireland*, and Subjecting the several Conditions of the Contract to the Inspection of those who are only concerned, as was formerly done in the only Precedents for Patents granted for Coining for this Kingdom, since the mixt Money in Queen *Elizabeth's* Time, during the Difficulties of a Rebellion: Whereas now upon the greatest Imposition that can possibly be practised, we must go to *England* with our Complaints, where it hath been for some Time the Fashion to think and to affirm  
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that *We cannot be too hardly used*. Again, the *Report* says, that *Such Patents are Obligatory*. After long thinking, I am not able to find out what can possibly be meant here by this Word *Obligatory*. This Patent of *Wood* neither *Obligeth* him to Utter his Coin, nor us to take it, or if it did the latter, it would be so far Void, because no Patent can *Oblige* the Subject against Law, unless an illegal Patent passed in *One Kingdom*, can Bind *Another* and not itself.

Lastly, it is added that *Such Patents are in no Manner Derogatory or Invasive of any Liberty or Privilege of the King's Subjects of Ireland*. If this Proposition be true, as it is here laid down, without any Limitation either expressed or Implied, it must follow that a King of *England* may at any Time Coin Copper Money for *Ireland*, and oblige his Subjects here to take a piece of Copper under the Value of Half a Farthing for Half a Crown, as was practised by the late King *James*, and even without that Arbitrary Prince's Excuse, from the Necessity and Exigences of his Affairs. If this be in no Manner *Derogatory nor Evasive of any Liberties or Privileges of the Subjects of Ireland*, it ought to have been expressed what our *Liberties and Privileges* are, and whether we have any at all; for in Specifying the Word *IRELAND*, instead of saying *His Majesty's Subjects*, it would seem to insinuate that we are

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not upon the same Foot with our Fellow Subjects in *England*; which, however the Practice may have been, I hope will never be directly asserted, for I do not understand that *Poining's* Act deprived us of our *Liberty*, but only changed the Manner of passing Laws here; (which however was a Power most indirectly obtained) by leaving the Negative to the Two Houses of Parliament. But, waving all Controversies relating to the Legislature, no Person, I believe, was ever yet so bold as to affirm that the People of *Ireland* have not the same Title to the Benefits of the COMMON LAW, with the rest of his Majesty's Subjects, and therefore whatever Liberties or Privileges the People of *England* enjoy by COMMON LAW, we of *Ireland* have the same; so that in my humble Opinion, the Word *Ireland* standing in that Proposition, was, in the mildest Interpretation, *a Lapse of the Pen*.

The *Report* farther asserts, that *the Precedents are many, wherein Cases of great Importance to Ireland, and that immediately affected the Interests of that Kingdom, Warrants, Orders, and Directions by the Authority of the King and his Predecessors, have been issued under the Royal Sign Manual, without any previous Reference or Advice of his Majesty's Officers of Ireland, which have always had their due Force, and have been punctually comply'd with, and obeyed.* It may  
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be so, and I am heartily sorry for it, because it may prove an Eternal Source of Discontent. However among all these *Precedents* there is not one of a Patent for Coining Money for *Ireland*.

There is nothing hath perplexed me more than this Doctrine of PRECEDENTS. If a Jobb is to be done, and upon searching Records you find it hath been done before, there will not want a Lawyer to justify the Legality of it, by producing his *Precedents*, without ever considering the Motives and Circumstances that first introduced them, the Necessity or Turbulence or Iniquity of Times, the Corruptions of Ministers, or the Arbitrary Disposition of the Prince then Reigning. And I have been told by Persons eminent in the Law, that the worst Actions which Humane Nature is capable of, may be justified by the same Doctrine. How the first *Precedents* began of Determining Cases of the Highest Importance to *Ireland*, and immediately affecting its Interest without any previous Reference or Advice to the King's Officers here, may soon be accounted for. Before this Kingdom was entirely Reduced by the Submission of *Tyrone* in the last Year of Queen *Elizabeth's* Reign, there was a Period of Four Hundred Years, which was a various Scene of War and Peace between the *English* Pale and the *Irish* Natives, and the Government of that Part

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of

of this Island which lay in the *English* Hands, was, in many Things under the immediate Administration of the King. Silver and Copper were often Coined here among us, and once at least upon great Necessity, a mixt or base Metal was sent from *England*. The Reign of King *James I.* was employed in settling the Kingdom after *Tyrone's* Rebellion, and this Nation flourished extremely till the Time of the Massacre, 1641. In that difficult Juncture of Affairs, the Nobility and Gentry Coined their own Plate here in *Dublin*.

By all that I can discover, the Copper Coin of *Ireland* for Three hundred Years past consisted of small Pence and Half-pence, which particular Men had Licence to Coin, and were current only within certain Towns and Districts, according to the personal Credit of the Owner who uttered them, and was bound to receive them again, whereof I have seen many Sorts; neither have I heard of any Patent granted for Coining Copper for *Ireland* till the Reign of King *Charles II.* which was in the Year 1680. to *George Leg* Lord *Dartmouth*, and renewed by King *James II.* in the first Year of his Reign to *John Knox*. Both Patents were passed in *Ireland*, and in both, the Patentees were obliged to receive their Coin again from any that would offer them

Twenty

Twenty Shillings of it, for which they were obliged to pay Gold or Silver.

The Patents both of Lord *Dartmouth* and *Knox* were referred to the Attorney General here, and a Report made accordingly, and both, as I have already said, were passed in this Kingdom. *Knox* had only a Patent for the Remainder of the Term granted to Lord *Dartmouth*, the Patent expir'd in 1701. and upon a Petition by *Roger Moor* to have it renewed, the Matter was referred hither, and upon the Report of the Attorney and Solicitor, that it was not for his Majesty's Service or the Interest of the Nation to have it renewed, it was Rejected by King *William*. It should therefore seem very *Extraordinary*, that a Patent for Coining Copper Half-pence, intended and professed for the Good of the Kingdom, should be passed without once consulting that Kingdom, for the Good of which it is declared to be intended, and this upon the Application of a *Poor, Private, Obscure Mechanick*; and a Patent of such a Nature, that as soon as ever the Kingdom is informed of its being passed, they cry out Unanimously against it as *Ruinous* and *Destructive*. The Representatives of the Nation in Parliament, and the Privy-Council Address the King to have it Recall'd; yet the Patentee, such a one as I have described, shall prevail to

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have



have this Patent approved, and his private Interest shall weigh down the Application of a whole Kingdom. *St. Paul* says, *All things are Lawful, but all things are not Expedient*. We are answered that this Patent is *Lawful*, but is it *Expedient*? We read that the High Priest said, *It was expedient that one Man should Die for the People*; And this was a most wicked Poposition. But that a *whole Nation* should *Die for one Man*, was never heard of before.

But because much Weight is laid on the *Precedents* of other Patents, for *Coining Copper* for Ireland, I will set this Matter in as clear a Light as I can. Whoever hath read the *Report*, will be apt to think, that a Dozen *Precedents* at least could be produced of *Copper Coyned for Ireland*, by Virtue of Patents passed in *England*, and that the *Coynage* was there too; whereas I am confident, there cannot be one *Precedent* shewn of a Patent passed in *England* for *Coining Copper* for *Ireland*, for above an Hundred Years past, and if there were any before, it must be in Times of Confusion. The only *Patents* I could ever hear of, are those already mentioned to Lord *Dartmouth* and *Knox*; the Former in 1680. and the Latter in 1685. Now let us compare these Patents with that granted to *Wood*. First, The Patent to *Knox*, which was under the same  
Condi-

Conditions as that granted to Lord *Dartmouth*, was passed in *Ireland*, the Government and the *Attorney* and *Solicitor* General making Report that it would be useful to this Kingdom.

The Patent was passed with the Advice of the *King's Council* here; The *Patentee* was obliged to receive his Coin from those who thought themselves surcharged, and to give *Gold* and *Silver* for it: Lastly, The *Patentee* was to pay only 1*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* per *Ann.* to the Crown. Then, as to the Execution of that Patent. First, I find the Half-pence were *Milled*, which, as it is of great Use to prevent Counterfeits (and therefore industriously avoided by *Wood*) so it was an Addition to the Charge of Coinage. And for the Weight and Goodness of the Metal; I have several Half-pence now by me, many of which weigh a Ninth Part more than those coined by *Wood*, and bear the Fire and Hammer a great deal better; and which is no Trifle, the Impression Fairer and Deeper. I grant Indeed, that many of the latter Coinage yield in Weight to some of *Wood's*, by a *Fraud* natural to such *Patentees*; but not so immediately after the Grant, and before the Coyn grew Current: For in this Circumstance Mr. *Wood* must serve for a *Precedent* in *Future Times*.

Let us now examine this new Patent granted to *William Wood*. It Passed upon very false Sug-  
gestions

gestions of his own, and of a few Confederates: It passed in *England*, without the least Reference hither. It passed unknown to the very *Lord Lieutenant*, then in *England*. *Wood* is empowered to coin one Hundred and Eight thousand Pounds, and all the Officers in the *Kingdom* (Civil and Military) are commanded in the Report to Countenance and assist him. *Knox* had only Power to utter what he would take, and was obliged to receive his Coyn back again at our Demand, and to enter into Security for so doing. *Wood's* Half-pence are not Milled, and therefore more easily Counterfeited by himself as well as by others. *Wood* pays a Thousand Pounds per Ann. for 14 Years, *Knox* paid only 16l. 13s. 4d. per Ann. for 21 Years.

It was the Report that set me the Example of making a Comparison between those two Patents wherein the Committee was grossly misled by the false Representation of *William Wood*, as it was by another Assertion, that Seven hundred Tuns of Copper were coined during the 21 Years of Lord *Dartmouth's* and *Knox's* Patents. Such a Quantity of Copper at the Rate of 2s. 8d. per Pound would amount to about an Hundred and Ninety Thousand Pounds, which was very near as much as the current Cash of the Kingdom in those Days; yet, during that Period, *Ireland* was never known to have

too much Copper Coin, and for several Years there was no coining at all: Besides, I am assured, that upon enquiring into the Custom-House Books all the Copper imported into the Kingdom, from 1683 to 1692. which includes 8 Years of the 21 (besides one Year allowed for the Troubles) did not exceed 47 Tuns, and we cannot suppose even that small Quantity to have been wholly apply'd to Coinage: So that I believe there was never any Comparison more unluckily made or so destructive of the Design for which it was produced.

The Psalmist reckons it an Effect of God's Anger, when *he selleth his People for Nought, and taketh no Money for them.* That we have greatly offended God by the Wickedness of our Lives is not to be disputed: But our King we have not offended in Word or Deed; and although he be God's Vice-gerent upon Earth, he will not punish us for any Offences, except those which we shall commit against his Legal Authority, his Sacred Person (which God preserve) or the Laws of the Land.

The Report is very profuse in Arguments, that *Ireland* is in great want of Copper Money. Who were the Witnesses to prove it, hath been shewn already; but in the Name of God, Who are to be *Judges*? Does not the Nation best know its own Wants? Both Houses of

Parliament, the Privy Council and the whole Body of the People declare the contrary. Or let the Wants be what they will, we desire they may not be supply'd by Mr. *Wood*. We know our own *Wants* but too well: They are *Many* and *Grievous* to be born, but quite of another Kind. Let *England* be satisfied: As things go, they will in a short Time have all our Gold and Silver, and may keep their Adulterate Copper at Home, for we are determined not to purchase it with our Manufactures, which *Wood* hath graciously offered to accept. Our *Wants* are not so bad by an Hundredth Part as the Method he hath taken to supply them. He hath already tryed his Faculty in *New-England*, and I hope he will meet at least with an EQUAL RECEPTION here; what *That* was I leave to publick Intelligencé. I am supposing a Wild Case, that if there should be any Person already receiving a Monstrous Pension out of this Kingdom, who was Instrumental in procuring this *Patent*, they have either not well consulted their own Interests, or *Wood* must put more Dross into his Copper and still diminish its Weight.

Upon *Wood's* Complaint that the Officers of the King's Revenue here had already given Orders to all the inferior Officers not to receive any of his Coin, the *Report* says, That *this cannot*

*cannot but be looked upon as a very extraordinary Proceeding, and being contrary to the Powers given in the Patent, the Committee say, They cannot advise his Majesty to give Directions to the Officers of the Revenue here, not to receive or utter any of the said Coin as has been desired in the Addresses of both Houses, but on the contrary, they think it both Just and Reasonable that the King should immediately give Orders to the Commissioners of the Revenue, &c. to revoke all Orders, &c. that may have been given by them to hinder or obstruct the receiving the said Coin.* And accordingly, we are told, such Orders are arrived. Now this was a Cast of *Wood's* Politicks; for his Information was wholly False and Groundless, which he knew very well; and that the Commissioners of the Revenue here were all, except one, sent us from *England*, and love their Employments too well to have taken such a Step: But *Wood* was wise enough to consider, that such Orders of *Revocation* would be an open Declaration of the Crown in his Favour, would put the Government here under a Difficulty, would make a Noise, and possibly create some Terror in the poor People of *Ireland*. And one great Point he hath gained, that although any Orders of *Revocation* will be needless, yet a new Order is to be sent, and perhaps already

dy here, to the Commissioners of the Revenue, and all the King's Officers in *Ireland*, that *Wood's Half-pence* be suffered and permitted, without any *Let, Suit, Trouble, Molestation or Denial* of any of the King's Officers or Ministers whatsoever, to pass and be received as CURRENT MONEY by such as shall be willing to receive them. In this Order there is no Exception, and therefore, as far as I can judge, it includes all Officers both *Civil* and *Military*, from the *Lord High Chancellor* to a *Justice of Peace*, and from the *General* to an *Ensign*: So that *Wood's Project* is not likely to fail for want of *Managers* enough. For my own Part, as Things stand, I have but little Regret to find my self, out of the *Number*, and therefore I shall continue in all Humility to exhort and Warn my Fellow-Subjects never to receive or utter this Coin, which will reduce the Kingdom to Beggary by much *quicker and larger Steps* than have hitherto been taken.

But it is needless to argue any longer. The Matter is come to an Issue. His Majesty Pursuant to the Law, hath left the *Field* open between *Wood* and the Kingdom of *Ireland*. *Wood* hath Liberty to Offer his Coin, and we have *Law, Reason, Liberty* and *Necessity* to refuse it: A knavish Jockey may ride an old Foundred Jade about the Market, but none are obliged

to buy it. I hope the Words *Voluntary* and *Willing to receive it* will be understood, and applied in their true natural Meaning, *as commonly understood by* PROTESTANTS. For if a *Fierce Captain* comes to my Shop to buy Six Yards of Scarlet Cloth, followed by a Porter laden with a Sack of *Wood's* Coin upon his Shoulders, if we are agreed about the Price, and my Scarlet lies ready cut upon the Counter, if he then gives me the *Word of Command* to receive my Money in *Wood's* Coin, and calls me a *Disaffected Jacobite Dog* for refusing it (although I am as Loyal a Subject as himself, and *without Hire*) and thereupon Seizes my Cloth, leaving me the Price in this Odious Copper, and bids me take my Remedy: In this Case, I shall hardly be brought to think that I am *left to my own Will*. I shall therefore on such Occasions, first order the Porter aforesaid to go off with his Pack, and then see the Money in *Silver* and *Gold* in my Possession before I Cut or Measure my Cloth. But if a *Common Soldier* drinks his Pot first, and then offers Payment in *Wood's* Half-pence, the *Landlady* may be under some Difficulty: For if she complains to his *Captain* or *Ensign*, they are likewise OFFICERS, included in this General Order for encouraging these Half-pence to pass as CURRENT MONEY. If she goes to a Justice  
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of *Peace*, he is also an *Officer*, to whom this General Order is directed. I do therefore advise her to follow my Practice, which I have already begun, and be payed for her Goods before she parts with them. However, I should have been content, for some Reasons, that the *Military Gentlemen* had been excepted by Name, because I have heard it said, that their Discipline is best confined within their own District.

His Majesty in the Conclusion of his Answer to the Address of the House of Lords, against *Wood's Coin*, is pleased to say, that *He will do every Thing in his Power for the Satisfaction of his People*. It should seem therefore, that the Recalling the Patent is not to be understood as a Thing *in his Power*: But however, since the Law does not oblige us to receive this Coin, and consequently the Patent leaves it to our voluntary Choice, there is nothing remaining to preserve us from Ruin, but that the whole Kingdom should continue in a firm determinate Resolution never to receive or utter this FATAL Coin: After which, let the *Officers* to whom these Orders are directed, (I would willingly except the *Military*) come with their *Exhortation*, their *Arguments* and their *Eloquence*, to persuade us to find our Interest in our Undoing. Let *Wood* and his  
*Accom-*

*Accomplices* Travel about the Country with *Cart-Loads* of their *Ware*, and see who will take it off their Hands, there will be no Fear of his being robbed, for a *Higbway-Man* would scorn to touch it.

I am only in Pain how the *Commissioners* of the *Revenue* will proceed in this Juncture; because I am told they are obliged by Act of Parliament, to take nothing but *Gold* and *Silver* in Payment for his Majesty's *Customs*, and I think they cannot justly offer this Coinage of *Mr. Wood* to others, unless they will be content to receive it themselves.

The Sum of the whole is this. The *Committee* advises the King to send immediate Orders to all his Officers here, that *Wood's Coin* be suffered and permitted without any *Let, Suit, Trouble, &c.* to pass and be received as *CURRENT MONEY*, by such as shall be *WILLING* to receive the same. It is probable, that the first *Willing Receivers* may be those who *Must Receive it whether they will or no*, at least under the Penalty of losing an Office. But the *Landed Undepending Men*, the *Merchants*, the *Shop-Keepers* and Bulk of the People, I hope, and am almost confident, will never receive it. What must the Consequence be? The Owners will sell it for as much as they can get. *Wood's Half-pence* will come to be offered for  
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Six a Penny (yet then he will be a sufficient Gainer) and the *Necessary Receivers* will be Losers of Two Thirds in their *Salaries* or *Pay*.

This puts me in Mind of a Passage I was told many Years ago in *England*. At a Quarter-Sessions in *Leicester*, the Justices had wisely decreed to take off a Half-penny in a Quart from the Price of Ale. One of them who came in after the Thing was determined, being inform'd of what had passed, said thus: *Gentlemen, You have made an Order, that Ale should be sold in our Country for three Half-pence a Quart: I desire you will now make another to appoint who must drink it, for BY G— I WILL NOT.*

I must beg leave to caution your *Lordships* and *Worships* in one Particular. *Wood* hath graciously promised to *Load* us at present only with Forty thousand Pounds of his Coin, 'till the *Exigencies of the Kingdom require the Rest*. I intreat you will never suffer Mr. *Wood* to be a Judge of your EXIGENCIES. While there is one Piece of Silver or Gold remaining in the Kingdom he will call it an EXIGENCY, he will double his present *Quantum* by Stealth as soon as he can, and will have the Remainder still to be Good. He will pour his own *Raps* and Counterfeits upon us: *France* and *Holland*

*land* will do the same; nor will our own Coiners at home be behind them: To confirm which, I have now in my Pocket a *Rap* or Counterfeit Half-penny in Imitation of his, but so ill performed, that in my Conscience I believe it is not of his Coining.

I must now desire your *Lordships* and *Worships*, that you will give great Allowance for this long undigested Paper; I find my self to have gone into several Repetitions, which were the Effects of haste, while new thoughts fell in to add something to what I had said before. I think I may affirm, that I have fully answered every Paragraph in the *Report*, which although it be not unartfully drawn, and is perfectly in the Spirit of a Pleader who can find the most plausible Topicks in behalf of his Client, yet there was no great Skill required to detect the many Mistakes contained in it, which however are by no Means to be charged upon the Right Honourable Committee, but upon the most False Impudent and Fraudulent Representations of *Wood* and his Accomplices. I desire one Particular may dwell upon your Minds, although I have mentioned it more than once; That after all the Weight layed upon *Precedents* there is not one produced in the whole *Report*, of a Patent for Coining Copper in *England* to pass in *Ireland*, and only

only two Patents referred to (for indeed there were no more) which were both passed in *Ireland* by References to the King's Council here, both less Advantageous to the Coyner than this of *Wood*, and in both, *Securities given to receive the Coin at every Call, and give Gold and Silver in Lieu of it.* This Demonstrates the most Flagrant Falshood and Impudence of *Wood*, by which he would endeavour to make the Right Honourable Committee his Instruments, (for his own Illegal and Exorbitant Gain) to ruin a Kingdom, which has deserved *quite different Treatment.*

I am very sensible that such a Work as I have undertaken might have worthily employed a much better Pen. But when a House is attempted to be Robbed, it often happens that the weakest in the Family runs first to stop the Door. All the Assistance I had were some Informations from an *Eminent Person*, whereof I am afraid I have spoiled a Few by endeavouring to make them of a Piece with my own Productions, and the rest I was not able to manage: I was in the Case of *David* who could not move in the *Armour of Saul*, and therefore I rather chose to attack this *Uncircumcised Philistine* (*Wood* I mean) *with a Sling and a Stone.* And I may say for *Wood's* Honour as well as my own, that he

he resembles *Goliab* in many Circumstances, very applicable to the present Purpose; for *Goliab* had a *Helmet of Brass upon his Head*, and he was armed with a *Coat of Mail*, and the *Weight of the Coat was Five Thousand Shekles of Brass*, and he had *Greaves of Brass upon his Legs*, and a *Target of Brass between his Shoulders*. In short he was like Mr. *Wood*, all over *Brass*; and he defied the *Armies of the living God*. *Goliab's* Condition of Combat were likewise the same with those of *Wood*: *If he prevail against us, then shall we be his Servants*. But if it happens that I prevail over him, I renounce the other Part of the Condition, he shall never be a *Servant* of Mine, for I do not think him fit to be trusted in any *Honest Man's Shop*.

I will conclude with my Humble Desire and Request which I made in my Second Letter; That your *Lordships* and *Worships* would please to Order a *Declaration* to be drawn up, expressing in the Strongest Terms, your Resolutions never to Receive or Utter any of *Wood's* Half-pence or Farthings, and forbidding your Tenants to receive them. That the said *Declaration* may be Signed by as many Persons as possible who have Estates in this Kingdom, and be sent Down to your several Tenants aforesaid.

And

112 *The DRAPIER'S LETTERS.*

And if the Dread of *Wood's Half-pence* should continue 'till next *Quarter Sessions* (which I hope it will not) the Gentlemen of every County will then have a fair Opportunity of Declaring against them with Unanimity and Zeal.

*I am with the greatest Respect,*

*(May it please your Lordships and Worships)*

*Your most Dutiful and*

Aug. 25.  
1724.

*Obedient Servant,*

M. B.





A

LETTER

TO THE

WHOLE PEOPLE

OF

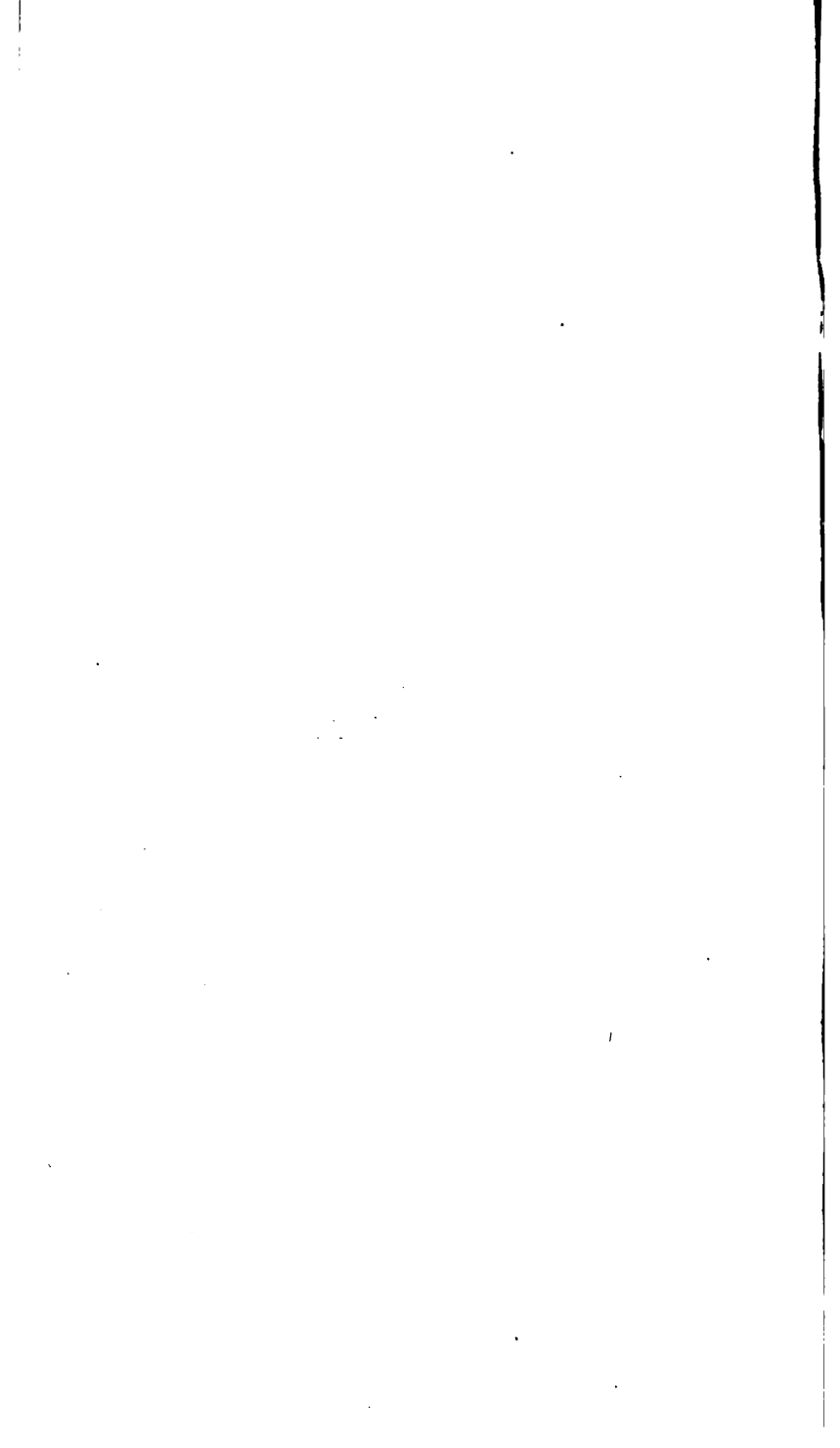
*IRELAND.*

Together with *SEASONABLE ADVICE* to  
the Grand Jury concerning the Bill preparing  
against the Printer of that Letter.



I







A LETTER to the whole People of  
I R E L A N D.

*My Dear Countrymen,*



HAVING already written Three Letters, upon so disagreeable a Subject, as Mr. *Wood* and his *Half-pence*; I conceived my Task was at an End: But I find that Cordials must be frequently apply'd to weak Constitutions, *Political* as well as *Natural*. A People long used to Hardships, lose by Degrees the very Notions of *Liberty*; they look upon themselves as Creatures at Mercy, and that all Impositions laid on them by a stronger Hand, are, in the Phrase of the *Report*, *Legal* and *Obligatory*. Hence proceeds that *Poverty* and *Lowness of Spirit*, to which a *Kingdom* may be subject as well as a *Particular Person*. And when *Esau* came fainting from the Field at the Point to

Die, it is no wonder that he sold his *Birth-Right* for a *Mess of Pottage*.

I thought I had sufficiently shewn to all who could want Instruction, by what Methods they might safely proceed, whenever this *Coin* should be offered to them: And I believe there hath not been for many Ages an Example of any Kingdom so firmly united in a Point of great Importance, as this of Ours is at present, against that detestable Fraud. But however, it so happens that some weak People begin to be alarmed a-new, by Rumours industriously spread. *Wood* prescribes to the News-Mongers in *London* what they are to write. In one of their Papers published here by some obscure Printer (and probably with no good Design) we are told, that the *Papists* in Ireland have entered into an Association against his *Coin*, although it be notoriously known, that they never once offered to stir in the Matter; so that the Two Houses of Parliament, the Privy Council, the great Numbers of Corporations, the Lord Mayor and Aldermen of *Dublin*, the Grand-Juries, and principal Gentlemen of several Counties are stigmatized in a Lump under the Name of *Papists*.

This Impostor and his Crew do likewise give out, that, by refusing to receive his Dross for Sterling, we dispute the King's Prerogative, are grown ripe for Rebellion, and ready to shake off  
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*the Dependency of Ireland upon the Crown of England.* To countenance which Reports, he hath publish'd a Paragraph in another News-Paper, to let us know, that *the Lord Lieutenant is ordered to come over immediately to settle his Half-pence.*

I intreat you, my dear Countrymen, not to be under the least Concern upon these and the like Rumours, which are no more than the last Howls of a Dog dissected alive, as I hope he hath sufficiently been. These Calumnies are the only Reserve that is left him. For surely our continued and (almost) unexampled Loyalty will never be called in Question, for not suffering our selves to be Robbed of all that we have, by one obscure *Iron-Monger.*

As to disputing the King's *Prerogative*, give me Leave to explain to those who are Ignorant, what the meaning of that word *Prerogative* is.

The Kings of these Realms enjoy several Powers, wherein the Laws have not interposed: So they can make War and Peace without the Consent of Parliament; and this is a very great *Prerogative.* But if the Parliament doth not approve of the War, the King must bear the Charge of it out of his own Purse; and this is as great a Check on the Crown. So the King hath a *Prerogative* to Coin Money without Consent of Parliament.

liament. But he cannot compel the Subject to take that Money except it be Sterling, Gold or Silver; because herein he is limited by Law. Some Princes have indeed extended their *Prerogative* further than the Law allowed them: Wherein however, the Lawyers of Succeeding Ages, as fond as they are of *Precedents*, have never dared to justify them. But to say the Truth, it is only of late Times that *Prerogative* hath been fixed and ascertained. For whoever reads the Histories of *England*, will find that some former Kings, and these none of the worst, have upon several Occasions ventured to controul the Laws with very little Ceremony or Scruple, even later than the Days of Queen *Elizabeth*. In her Reign that pernicious Counsel of sending *Base Money* hither, very narrowly failed of Losing the Kingdom, being complained of by the Lord Deputy, the Council, and the whole Body of the *English* here: So that soon after her Death it was recalled by her Successor, and Lawful Money paid in Exchange.

Having thus given you some Notion of what is meant by the King's *Prerogative*, as far as a *Tradesman* can be thought capable of Explaining it, I will only add the Opinion of the great Lord *Bacon*; That *as God governs the World by the settled Laws of Nature, which he hath made, and never transcends those Laws but upon High Important*

*portant Occasions : So among Earthly Princes, those are the Wisest and the Best, who govern by the known Laws of the Country, and seldomest make Use of their Prerogative.*

Now, here you may see that the Vile Accusation of *Wood* and his Accomplices, charging us with *Disputing the King's Prerogative* by refusing his Brass, can have no Place, because compelling the Subject to take any Coin which is not Sterling is no Part of the King's *Prerogative*; and I am very confident if it were so, we should be the last of his People to dispute it, as well from that inviolable Loyalty we have always paid to his Majesty, as from the Treatment we might in such a Case justly expect from some who seem to think, we have neither *Common Sense* nor *Common Senses*. But God be thanked, the Best of them are only our *Fellow Subjects*, and not our *Masters*. One great Merit I am sure we have, which those of *English* Birth can have no Pretence to, That our Ancestors reduced this Kingdom to the Obedience of ENGLAND, for which we have been rewarded with a worse Climate, the Privilege of being governed by Laws to which we do not consent, a Ruined Trade, a House of *Peers* without *Jurisdiction*, almost an Incapacity for all Employments, and the Dread of *Wood's* Halfpence.

But we are so far from disputing the King's *Prerogative* in Coining, that we own he has Power to give a Patent to any Man for setting his Royal Image and Supercription upon whatever Materials he pleases, and Liberty to the Patentee to offer them in any Country from *England* to *Japan*, only attended with one small Limitation, That *no body alive is obliged to take them.*

Upon these Considerations I was ever against all Recourse to *England* for a Remedy against the present Impending Evil, especially when I observed that the Addresses of Both Houses, after long Expectance, produced nothing but a REPORT altogether in Favour of *Wood*, upon which I made some Observations in a former Letter, and might at least have made as many more: For it is a Paper of as Singular a Nature as I ever beheld.

But I mistake; for before this *Report* was made, His Majesty's *Most Gracious Answer* to the House of Lords was sent over and Printed, wherein there are these Words, *Granting the Patent for Coining Half-pence and Farthings* AGREEABLE TO THE PRACTICE OF HIS ROYAL PREDECESSORS, &c. That King *Charles II.* and King *James II.* (AND THEY ONLY) did grant Patents for this Purpose is indisputable, and I have shewn it at large. Their Patents were passed under the great Seal of IRELAND by References to IRELAND, the Copper to be coined in IRELAND, the

the Patentee was bound on Demand to receive his Coin back in IRELAND and pay Silver and Gold in Return, *Wood's* Patent was made under the great Seal of ENGLAND, the Brads coined in ENGLAND, not the least Reference made to IRELAND, the Sum Immense, and the Patentee under no Obligation to receive it again and give good Money for it: This I only mention, because in my private Thoughts I have sometimes made a Query, whether the *Penner* of those Words in his Majesty's *Most Gracious Answer*, AGREEABLE TO THE PRACTICE OF HIS ROYAL PREDECESSORS, had maturely considered the several Circumstances, which, in my poor Opinion, seem to make a Difference.

Let me now say something concerning the other great Cause of some People's Fear, as *Wood* has taught the *London News-Writer* to express it: That *his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant is coming over to settle Wood's Half-pence.*

We know very well that the Lords Lieutenants for several Years past have not thought this Kingdom *Worthy the Honour of their Residence*, longer than was absolutely necessary for the King's Business, which consequently *wanted no Speed in the Dispatch*; and therefore it naturally fell into most Mens Thoughts, that a new Governour coming at an *Unusual Time* must portend some *Unusual Business* to be done, especially if  
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the Common Report be true, That the Parliament Prorogued to I know not when, is by a new Summons (revoking that Prorogation) to assemble soon after his Arrival: For which extraordinary Proceeding the Lawyers on t'other side the Water have by great good Fortune found *Two Precedents.*

All this being granted, it can never enter into my Head that so *Little a Creature as Wood* could find Credit enough with the King and his Ministers to have the Lord Lieutenant of *Ireland* sent hither in a Hurry upon his Errand.

For let us take the whole Matter nakedly as it lies before us, without the Refinements of some People, with which we have nothing to do. Here is a Patent granted under the great Seal of *England*, upon false Suggestions to one *William Wood* for Coining Copper Half-pence for *Ireland*: The *Parliament* here, upon Apprehensions of the worst Consequences from the said Patent, address the King to have it recalled; this is refused, and a Committee of the Privy Council *Report* to his Majesty, that *Wood* has performed the Conditions of his Patent. He then is left to do the best he can with his Half-pence; no Man being obliged to receive them; the People here, being likewise left to themselves, unite as one Man, resolving they will have nothing to do with his Ware. By this plain Account of the Fact it  
is

is manifest, that the King and his Ministry are wholly out of the Case, and the Matter is left to be disputed between him and us. Will any Man therefore attempt to persuade me, that a Lord Lieutenant is to be dispatched over in great Haste before the Ordinary Time, and a Parliament summoned by anticipating a Prorogation, merely to put an Hundred thousand Pounds into the Pocket of a *Sharper* by the Ruin of a most Loyal Kingdom?

But supposing all this to be true. By what Arguments could a Lord Lieutenant prevail on the same Parliament which addressed with so much Zeal and Earnestness against this Evil, to pass it into a Law? I am sure their Opinion of *Wood* and his Project is not mended since the last Prorogation: And supposing those *Methods* should be used which, *Detractors* tell us, have been sometimes put in Practice for *gaining Votes*, it is well known that in this Kingdom there are few Employments to be given, and if there were more, it is *as well known* to whose Share they must fall.

But because great Numbers of you are altogether Ignorant in the Affairs of your Country, I will tell you some Reasons why there are so few Employments to be disposed of in this Kingdom. All considerable Offices for Life here are possessed by those to whom the Reversions were granted, and these have been generally Followers of the  
Chief

Chief Governours, or Persons who had Interest in the Court of *England*. So the Lord *Berkely* of *Stratton*, holds that great Office of *Master of the Rolls*, the Lord *Palmerstown* is *First Remembrancer* worth near 2000*l.* *per Ann.* One *Dodington*, Secretary to the Earl of *Pembroke* begged the Reversion of *Clerk of the Pells* worth 2500*l.* a Year, which he now enjoys by the Death of the Lord *Newtown*. Mr. *Southwell* is Secretary of State, and the Earl of *Burlington* Lord High Treasurer of *Ireland* by Inheritance. These are only a few among many others which I have been told of, but cannot remember. Nay the Reversion of several Employments during Pleasure are granted the same Way. This among many others is a Circumstance whereby the Kingdom of *Ireland* is distinguished from all other Nations upon Earth, and makes it so Difficult an Affair to get into a Civil Employ, that Mr. *Addison* was forced to purchase an old obscure Place, called *Keeper of the Records of Bermingham's Tower* of Ten Pounds a Year, and to get a Sallary of 400*l.* annexed to it, though all the Records there are not worth Half a Crown, either for Curiosity or Use. And we lately saw a *Favourite Secretary* descend to be *Master of the Revels*, which by his *Credit and Extortion* he hath made *Pretty Considerable*. I say nothing of the Under Treasurership worth about 8000*l.* a Year

nor the Commissioners of the Revenue, Four of whom generally live in *England*: For I think none of these are granted in Reversion. But the Test is, that I have known upon Occasion some of these absent Officers as *Keen* against the Interest of *Ireland*, as if they had never been indebted to Her for a *Single Groat*.

I confess, I have been sometimes tempted to wish that this Project of *Wood* might succeed, because I reflected with some pleasure what a *Jolly Crew* it would bring over among us of *Lords* and *Squires*, and *Pensioners* of *Both Sexes*, and Officers *Civil* and *Military*, where we should live together as merry and sociable as Beggars, only with this one Abatement, that we should neither have *Meat* to feed, nor *Manufactures* to Cloath us, unless we could be content to *Prance* about in *Coats of Mail*, or eat Brags as *Ostriches* do Iron.

I return from this Digression to that which gave me the Occasion of making it: And I believe you are now convinced, that if the Parliament of *Ireland* were as *Temptable* as any other Assembly *within a Mile of Christendom* (which God forbid) yet the *Managers* must of Necessity fail for want of *Tools* to work with. But I will yet go one Step further, by Supposing that a Hundred new Employments were erected on purpose to gratify *Compliers*; yet still an insuperable

able Difficulty would remain; for it happens, I know not how, that *Money* is neither *Whig* nor *Tory*, neither of *Town* nor *Country Party*, and it is not improbable, that a Gentleman would rather chuse to live upon his *own Estate* which brings him *Gold* and *Silver*, than with the Addition of an *Employment*, when his *Rents* and *Salary* must both be paid in *Wood's Brass*, at above *Eighty per Cent.* Discount.

For these and many other Reasons, I am confident you need not be under the least Apprehensions from the sudden Expectation of the *Lord Lieutenant*, while we continue in our present Hearty Disposition; to alter which there is no Suitable Temptation can possibly be offered: And if, as I have often asserted from the best Authority, the *Law* hath not left a *Power* in the *Crown* to force any Money except Sterling upon the Subject, much less can the *Crown devolve* such a *Power* upon *another*.

This I speak with the utmost Respect to the *Person* and *Dignity* of his Excellency the *Lord Carteret*, whose Character hath been given me by a Gentleman that hath known him from his first Appearance in the World: That Gentleman describes him as a young Noble Man of great Accomplishments, excellent Learning, Regular in his Life, and of much Spirit and Vivacity. He hath since, as I have heard, been employed  
abroad

abroad, was principal Secretary of State, and is now about the 37<sup>th</sup> Year of his Age appointed Lord Lieutenant of *Ireland*. From such a Governour this Kingdom may reasonably hope for as much Prosperity, as *under so many Discouragements* it can be capable of Receiving.

It is true indeed, that within the Memory of Man, there have been Governours of so much Dexterity, as to carry points of Terrible Consequence to this Kingdom, by their Power with *those who are in Office*, and by their Arts in managing or deluding others with *Oaths, Affability*, and even with *Dinners*. If *Wood's Brass* had in those Times been upon the *Anvil*, it is obvious enough to conceive what Methods would have been taken. *Depending Persons* would have been told in plain Terms, that it was a *Service expected from them, under the Pain of the Publick Business being put into more complying Hands*. Others would be allured by *Promises*. To the *Country Gentlemen*, besides *Good Words, Burgundy and Clofeting*, it would perhaps have been hinted how *kindly it would be taken to comply with a Royal Patent, though it were not compulsory*, that if any Inconveniencies ensued, it might be made up with other *Graces or Favours hereafter*: That *Gentlemen ought to consider whether it were prudent or safe to disgust England*: They would be desired to *think of some good Bills for*  
*encou-*

*encouraging of Trade, and setting the Poor to Work, some further Acts against Popery and for Uniting Protestants. There would be solemn Engagements that we should never be troubled with above Forty thousand Pounds in his Coin, and all of the best and weightiest Sort, for which we should only give our Manufactures in Exchange, and keep our Gold and Silver at Home. Perhaps a seasonable Report of some Invasion would have been spread in the most proper Juncture, which is a great Smoother of Rubs in publick Proceedings; and we should have been told that this was no Time to create Differences when the Kingdom was in Danger.*

These I say, and the like Methods would in corrupt Times have been taken to let in this Deluge of Brass among us: And I am confident would even then have not succeeded, much less under the Administration of so excellent a Person as the Lord *Carteret*, and in a Country where the People of all Ranks, Parties and Denominations are convinced to a Man, that the utter undoing of themselves and their Posterity for ever will be Dated from the Admission of that Execrable Coin; that if it once enters, it can be no more confined to a small or moderate Quantity, than the *Plague* can be confined to a few Families, and that no *Equivalent* can be given by any  
earthly

earthly Power, any more than a Dead Carcass can be recover'd to Life by a Cordial.

There is one comfortable Circumstance in this Universal Opposition to Mr. *Wood*, that the People sent over hither from *England* to fill up our *Vacancies Ecclesiastical, Civil and Military*, are all on our Side: *Money*, the great *Divider* of the World, hath by a strange Revolution, been the great *Uniter* of a most *Divided* People: Who would leave a Hundred Pounds a Year in *England* (a Country of Freedom) to be paid a Thousand in *Ireland* out of *Wood's* Exchequer? The Gentleman They have lately made *Primate*, would never quit his Seat in an *English* House of Lords, and his Preferments at *Oxford* and *Bristol*, worth Twelve hundred Pounds a Year, for Four times the Denomination here, but not half the Value; therefore I expect to hear he will be as good an *Irish* Man, upon this Article, as any of his Brethren, or even of *Us* who have had the Misfortune to be born in this Island. For those, who, in the common Phrase, do not come hither to learn the Language, would never change a better Country for a Worse, to receive *Brass* instead of *Gold*.

Another Slander spread by *Wood* and his emissaries is, that by opposing him we discover an Inclination to shake off our Dependance upon the Crown of England. Pray observe how im-



portant a Person is this same *William Wood*, and how the publick Weal of Two Kingdoms is involved in his private Interest. First, all those who refuse to take his Coin are *Papists*; for he tells us that *none but Papists are associated against him*. Secondly, They *dispute the King's Prerogative*. Thirdly, They are *Ripe for Rebellion*. And Fourthly, They are going to *shake off their Dependance upon the Crown of England*; that is to say, *they are going to chuse another King*: For there can be no other Meaning in this Expression, however some may pretend to strain it.

And this gives me an Opportunity of Explaining, to those who are Ignorant, another point, which hath often *Swelled in my Breast*. Those who come over hither to us from *England*, and some *Weak* People among our selves, whenever in Discourse we make mention of *Liberty and Property*, shake their Heads, and tell us, that *Ireland* is a *Depending Kingdom*, as if they would seem, by this Phrase, to intend that the People of *Ireland* is in some State of Slavery or Dependance different from those of *England*: Whereas a *Depending Kingdom* is a *Modern Term of Art*, unknown, as I have heard, to all ancient *Civilians*, and *Writers upon Government*; and *Ireland* is on the contrary called in some Statutes an *Imperial Crown*, as held only from God; which is as High a Style as any Kingdom is capable of receiving.

receiving. Therefore by this Expression; a *Depending Kingdom*, there is no more understood than that by a Statute made here in the 33d Year of *Henry VIII.* *The King and his Successors are to be Kings Imperial of this Realm as United and Knit to the Imperial Crown of England.* I have looked over all the *English* and *Irish* Statutes without finding any Law that makes *Ireland* depend upon *England*, any more than *England* does upon *Ireland*. We have indeed obliged our selves to have *the same King with them*, and consequently they are obliged to have *the same King with us*. For the Law was made by *our own Parliament*, and our Ancestors then were not such *Fools* (*whatever they were in the Preceding Reign*) to bring themselves under I know not what *Dependance*, which is now talked of without any Ground of *Law, Reason* or *common Sense*.

Let whoever think otherwise, I *M. B. Drapier*, desire to be excepted, for I declare, next under God, I *depend* only on the King my Sovereign, and on the Laws of my own Country; and I am so far from *depending* upon the People of *England*, that if they should ever *Rebel* against my Sovereign (which God forbid) I would be ready at the first Command from his Majesty to take Arms against them, as some of *my* Countrymen did against *Theirs* at *Preston*. And if such a

Rebellion should prove so successful as to fix the *Pretender* on the Throne of *England*, I would venture to transgress that *Statute* so far as to lose every Drop of my Blood to hinder him from being *King of Ireland*.

'Tis true indeed, that within the Memory of Man, the Parliaments of *England* have *Sometimes* assumed the Power of binding this Kingdom by Laws enacted there, wherein they were at first openly opposed (as far as *Truth, Reason* and *Justice* are capable of *Opposing*) by the Famous Mr. *Molineaux*, an *English* Gentleman born here, as well as by several of the greatest Patriots, and *best Whigs* in *England*; but the *Love and Torrent* of Power prevailed. Indeed the Arguments on both sides were invincible; for in *Reason*, all *Government* without the Consent of the *Governed* is the *very Definition of Slavery*: But in *Fact*, *Eleven Men well Armed will certainly subdue one Single Man in his Shirt*. But I have done. For those who have used *Power* to cramp *Liberty* have gone so far as to resent even the *Liberty of Complaining*, altho' a Man upon the Rack was never known to be refused the *Liberty of Roaring* as loud as he thought fit.

And as we are apt to *sink too much* under *unreasonable* Fears, so we are too soon inclined to be *Raised* by groundless Hopes (according to the  
Nature

Nature of all *Consumptive* Bodies like ours.) Thus, it hath been given about for several Days past, that *Some Body* in *England* empowered a *Second Some-body* to write to a third *Some-body* here to assure us, that we *should no more be troubled with those Half-pence*; and this is Reported to have been done by the *same Person*, who was said to have Sworn some Months ago, that he would *Ram them down our Throats* (though I doubt they would *stick in our Stomachs*) but which ever of these Reports is True or False, it is no Concern of ours. For *in this Point* we have nothing to do with *English Ministers*, and I should be sorry to lay it in their Power to *Redress* this Grievance or to *Enforce* it: For the *Report of the Committee* hath given me a *Surfeit*. The Remedy is wholly in your own Hands, and therefore I have digressed a little in order to refresh and continue that *Spirit* so seasonably raised amongst you, and to let you see that by the Laws of GOD, of NATURE, of NATIONS, and of your own Country, you ARE and OUGHT to be as FREE a People as your Brethren in *England*.

If the Pamphlets published at *London* by *Wood* and his *Journey-men* in Defence of his Cause, were Re-printed here, and that our Country-men could be persuaded to read them, they would convince you of his wicked Design more

than all I shall ever be able to say. In short I make him a perfect *Saint* in Comparison of what he appears to be from the writings of those whom he *Hires* to justify his *Project*. But he is so far *Master of the Field* (let others guess the *Reason*) that no *London* Printer dare publish any Paper written in Favour of *Ireland*, and here no body hath yet been so *bold* as to publish any thing in *Favour* of *him*.

There was a few Days ago a Pamphlet sent me of near 50 Pages Written in Favour of Mr. *Wood* and his *Coinage*, printed in *London*, it is not worth answering, because probably it will never be published here: But it gave me an Occasion to reflect upon an Unhappiness we lie under, that the People of *England* are utterly ignorant of our Case, which however is no Wonder, since it is a point they do not in the least concern themselves about, farther than perhaps as a Subject of Discourse in a Coffee-House, when they have nothing else to talk of. For I have Reason to believe that no Minister ever gave himself the Trouble of reading any Papers Written in our Defence, because I suppose *their Opinions are already determined*, and are formed wholly upon the Reports of *Wood* and his Accomplices; else it would be impossible that any Man could have the Impudence to write such a Pamphlet as I have mentioned.

Our

Our Neighbours, whose Understandings are just upon a Level with Ours (which perhaps are none of the *Brightest*) have a strong Contempt for most Nations, but especially for *Ireland*: They look upon Us as a Sort of *Savage Irish*, whom our Ancestors conquered several hundred Years ago, and if I should describe the *Britons* to you as they were in *Cæsar's* Time, when they painted their Bodies, or cloathed themselves with the Skins of Beasts, I should act full as reasonably as they do. However they are so far to be excused in Relation to the present Subject, that, hearing only *one Side of the Cause*, and having neither Opportunity nor Curiosity to examine the *Other*, they believe a *Lye* merely for their Ease, and conclude, because Mr. *Wood* pretends to have Power, he hath also Reason on his Side.

Therefore to let you see how this Case is represented in *England* by *Wood* and his Adherents; I have thought it proper to extract out of that Pamphlet a few of those Notorious Falshoods in point of *Fact* and *Reasoning* contained therein; the Knowledge whereof will confirm my Country-men in their *Own Right Sentiments*, when they will see by comparing both, how much their *Enemies are in the Wrong*.

First The Writer, positively asserts, *That Wood's Half-pence were Current among us for several Months with the universal Approbation of*

*all People, without one single Gain-sayer, and we all to a Man thought our selves Happy in having them.*

Secondly, He affirms, *That we were drawn into a Dislike of them only by some Cunning Evil-defigning Men among us, who opposed this Patent of Wood to get another for themselves.*

Thirdly, *That those who most declared at first against Wood's Patent were the very Men who intend to get another for their own Advantage.*

Fourthly, *That our Parliament and Privy-Council, the Lord Mayor and Aldermen of Dublin, the Grand-Juries and Merchants, and in short the whole Kingdom, nay the very Dogs (as he expresseth it) were fond of these Half-pence, till they were inflamed by those few designing Persons aforesaid.*

Fifthly, He says directly, *That all those who opposed the Half-pence were Papists and Enemies to King George.*

Thus far I am confident the most Ignorant among you can safely swear from your own Knowledge, that the Author is a most notorious Lyar in every Article; the direct contrary being so manifest to the whole Kingdom, that if Occasion required; we might get it confirmed *under Five hundred thousand Hands.*

Sixthly, He would persuade us, *That if we sell Five Shillings worth of our Goods or Manufactures*

*factures for Two Shillings and Four-pence worth of Copper, although the Copper were melted down, and that we could get Five Shillings in Gold and Silver for the said Goods, yet to take the said Two Shillings and Four-pence in Copper, would be greatly for our Advantage.*

And Lastly, He makes us a very fair Offer, as empowered by Wood, That if we will take off Two hundred thousand Pounds in his Half-pence for our Goods, and likewise pay him Three per Cent. Interest for Thirty Years, for an Hundred and Twenty thousand Pounds (at which he computes the Coinage above the Intrinsic Value of the Copper) for the Loan of his Coin, he will after that Time give us good Money for what Half-pence will be then left.

Let me place this offer in as clear a Light as I can to shew the unsupportable Villainy and Impudence of that incorrigible Wretch. First (says he) I will send Two hundred thousand Pounds of my Coin into your Country, the Copper I compute to be in real Value Eighty thousand Pounds, and I charge you with an Hundred and twenty thousand Pounds for the Coinage; so that you see I lend you an Hundred and twenty thousand Pounds for Thirty Years, for which you shall pay me Three per Cent. That is to say Three thousand Six hundred Pounds per Ann. which in Thirty Years will amount to an Hundred and eight thousand

*sand*



*and Pounds. And when these Thirty Years are expired, return me my Copper and I will give you Good Money for it.*

This is the Proposal made to us by *Wood* in that Pamphlet Written by one of his *Commissioners*; and the Author is supposed to be the same Infamous *Coleby* one of his *Under-Swearers* at the *Committee of Council*, who was tryed for *Robbing the Treasury here*, where he was an *Under-Clerk*.

By this Proposal he will first receive Two hundred thousand Pounds, in Goods or Sterling for as much Copper as he Values at Eighty thousand Pounds, but in Reality not worth Thirty thousand Pounds. Secondly, he will receive for Interest an Hundred and Eight thousand Pounds. And when our Children come Thirty Years hence to return his Half-pence upon his Executors (for before that Time he will be probably gone to his own Place) those Executors will very reasonably reject them as Raps and Counterfeits, which probably they will be, and Millions of them of his own Coinage.

Methinks I am fond of such a *Dealer* as this who mends every Day upon our Hands like a *Dutch* Reckoning, where, if you dispute the Unreasonableness and Exorbitance of the Bill, the Landlord shall bring it up every Time with new Additions.

Although

Although these and the like Pamphlets publish'd by *Wood* in *London* be altogether unknown here, where no body could read them without as much *Indignation* as *Contempt* would allow, yet I thought it proper to give you a Specimen how the *Man* employs his Time, where he Rides alone without one Creature to contradict him, while OUR FEW FRIENDS there wonder at our Silence, and the *English* in general, if they think of this Matter at all, impute our Refusal to *Wilfulness* or *Disaffection*, just as *Wood* and his *Hirelings* are pleased to represent.

But although our Arguments are not suffered to be printed in *England*, yet the Consequence will be of little Moment. Let *Wood* endeavour to *Persuade* the People *There*, that we ought to *Receive* his Coin, and let me *Convince* our People *Here*, that they ought to *Reject* it under pain of our utter Undoing. And then let him do his *Best* and his *Worst*.

Before I conclude, I must beg Leave in all Humility to tell Mr. *Wood*, that he is guilty of great *Indiscretion*, by causing so Honourable a Name as that of Mr. *W*—— to be mentioned so often, and in such a Manner, upon his Occasion. A short Paper printed at *Bristol* and re-printed here reports Mr. *Wood* to say, that he wonders at the *Impudence* and *Insolence* of  
the

*the Irish in refusing his Coin, and what he will do when Mr. W—— comes to Town.* Where, by the Way, he is mistaken, for it is the *True English People of Ireland*, who refuse it, although we take it for granted that the *Irish* will do so too whenever they are asked. He orders it to be printed in another Paper, that *Mr. W—— will cram his Brass down our Throats.* Sometimes it is given out that we must *either take these Half-pence or eat our Brogues.* And, in another News-Letter but of Yesterday, we read that the same great Man *hath sworn to make us swallow his Coin in Fire-Balls.*

This brings to my Mind the known Story of a *Scotch Man*; who receiving Sentence of Death, with all the Circumstances of *Hanging, Beheading, Quartering, Embowelling,* and the like, cried out, *What need all this COOKERY?* And I think we have Reason to ask the same Question; for if we believe *Wood*, here is a *Dinner* getting ready for us, and you see the *Bill of Fare*, and I am sorry the *Drink* was forgot, which might easily be supply'd with *Melted Lead and Flaming Pitch.*

What vile Words are these to put into the Mouth of a great Counsellor, in high Trust with his Majesty, and looked upon as a prime Minister? If *Mr. Wood* hath no better a Man-

ner of representing his Patrons, when I come to be a *Great Man*, he shall never be suffered to attend at my *Levee*. This is not the Style of a Great Minister, it favours too much of the *Kettle* and the *Furnace*, and came entirely out of Mr. *Wood's Forge*.

As for the Threat of making us *eat our Brogues*, we need not be in Pain; for if his Coin should pass, that *Unpolite Covering for the Feet* would no longer be a *National Reproach*; because then we should have neither *Shoe* nor *Brogue* left in the Kingdom. But here the Falshood of Mr. *Wood* is fairly detected; for I am confident Mr. *W*—never heard of a *Brogue* in his whole Life.

As to *Swallowing these Half-pence in Fire-Balls*, it is a Story equally improbable. For to execute this *Operation* the whole Stock of Mr. *Wood's* Coin and Metal must be melted down, and molded into hollow *Balls* with *Wild-fire*, no bigger than a *Reasonable* Throat can be able to swallow. Now the Metal he hath prepared, and already coined will amount to at least Fifty Millions of Half-pence to be *Swallowed* by a Million and a Half of People; so that allowing Two Half-pence to each *Ball*, there will be about Seventeen *Balls* of *Wild-Fire* a-piece to be swallowed by every Per-  
son

son in this Kingdom; and to administer this Dose, there cannot be conveniently fewer than Fifty Thousand *Operators*, allowing one *Operator* to every Thirty; which, considering the *Squeamishness* of some Stomachs, and the *Peevishness* of *Young Children*, is but reasonable. Now, under Correction of better Judgments, I think the Trouble and Charge of such an Experiment would exceed the Profit, and therefore I take this *Report* to be *spurious*, or, at least, only a new *Scheme* of Mr. *Wood* himself, which, to make it pass the better in *Ireland*, he would Father upon a *Minister of State*.

But I will now demonstrate, beyond all Contradiction, that Mr. *W*—— is against this Project of Mr. *Wood*, and is an entire Friend to *Ireland*, only by this one invincible Argument, That he has the Universal Opinion of being a Wise Man, an able Minister, and in all his Proceedings pursuing the *True Interest* of the *King* his Master: And that as his *Integrity* is above all *Corruption*, so is his *Fortune* above all *Temptation*. I reckon therefore we are perfectly safe from that *Corner*, and shall never be under the Necessity of Contending with so *Formidable a Power*, but be left

left to possess our *Brogues* and *Potatoes* in  
*Peace*, as *Remote from Thunder* as we are from  
*Jupiter*.

*I am,*

*My Dear Country-men,*

Oct 13,  
1724.

*Your Loving Fellow-Subject,*

*Fellow-Sufferer, and*

*Humble Servant,*

**M. B.**



*Season-*



SEASONABLE ADVICE to the *Grand Jury*, concerning the *Bill* preparing against the *PRINTER* of the preceding *Letter*.

**S**INCE a *Bill* is preparing for the *Grand Jury* to find against the *Printer* of the *Drapier's last Letter*; there are several Things maturely to be considered by those Gentlemen, before whom this *Bill* is to come, before they determine upon it.

FIRST, they are to consider, that the *Author* of the said Pamphlet, did write three other Discourses on the same Subject; which, instead of being censur'd, were universally approv'd by the whole Nation, and were allowed to have rais'd, and continued that Spirit among us, which hitherto hath kept out *Wood's Coin*. For all Men will allow, that, if those Pamphlets had not been writ, his *Coin* must have over-run the Nation some Months ago.

SECONDLY,

SECONDLY, it is to be consider'd, that this Pamphlet, against which a *Proclamation* hath been issu'd, is writ by the *same Author*, that no Body ever doubted the Innocence and Goodness of his Design, that he appears through the whole Tenor of it, to be a *Loyal Subject* to his Majesty, and devoted to the House of *Hanover*, and declares himself, in a Manner, peculiarly Zealous against the *Pretender*: And if such a Writer in four several Treatises on so nice a Subject, where a Royal Patent is concern'd, and where it was necessary to speak of *England* and of Liberty, should in one or two Places happen to let fall an inadvertent Expression, it would be hard to condemn him, after all the Good he hath done; especially when we consider, that he could have no possible Design in View, either of Honour or Profit, but purely  
THE GOOD OF HIS COUNTRY.

THIRDLY, it ought to be well consider'd, whether any one Expression in the said Pamphlet be really liable to a just Exception, much less to be found *Wicked, Malicious, Seditious, reflecting upon his Majesty and his Ministry, &c.*

The two Points in that Pamphlet, which it is said, the Prosecutors intend chiefly to fix on, are, First, where the Author mentions the Penner of the King's Answer. First it is well known, his Majesty is not Master of the *Eng-*



*lish* Tongue, and therefore it is necessary that some other Person should be employ'd to Pen what he hath to say or write in that Language. Secondly, his Majesty's Answer is not in the first Person, but the third. It is not said, *We are concern'd*, or *Our Royal Predecessors*, but, *His Majesty is concerned*; and *his Royal Predecessore*. By which it is plain, these are properly not the Words of his Majesty; but suppos'd to be taken from him, and transmitted hither by one of his Ministers. Thirdly, it will be easily seen, that the Author of the Pamphlet delivers his Sentiments upon this Particular, with the utmost Caution and Respect, as any impartial Reader will observe.

The second Paragraph, which, it is said, will be taken Notice of as a Motive to find the Bill, is, what the Author says of *Ireland* being a *Dependent Kingdom*. He explains all the *Dependency* he knows of it, which is a Law made in *Ireland*, whereby it is enacted, that *whoever is King of England, shall be King of Ireland*. Before this Explanation be condemn'd, and the Bill found upon it, it would be proper that some Lawyers should fully inform the Jury, what other Law there is, either Statute or Common, for this *Dependency*; and if there be no Law, there is no Transgression.

The Fourth Thing very maturely to be considered

sidered by the Jury, is, what Influence their finding the Bill may have upon the Kingdom. The People in general find no Fault in the *Drapier's* last Book, any more than in the three former, and therefore when they hear it is condemned by a Grand Jury of *Dublin*, they will conclude it is done in Favour of *Wood's* Coin, they will think we of this Town have chang'd our Minds, and intend to take those Half-pence, and therefore that it will be in Vain for them to stand out: So that the Question comes to this: Which will be of the worst Consequence; To let pass one or two Expressions, at the worst only unwary in a Book written for the Publick Service, or to leave a free open Passage for *Wood's* Brass to overrun us, by which we shall be undone for ever?

The fifth thing to be considered, is, that the Members of the Grand Jury being Merchants, and Principal Shop-keepers, can have no *Suitable Temptation* offered them as a Recompence for the Mischief they will suffer by letting in this Coin, nor can be at any Loss or Danger by rejecting the Bill: They do not expect any Employments in the State, to make up in their own private Advantage, the Destruction of their Country: Whereas those who go about to *Advise, Entice, or Threaten* them to find that Bill, have great Employments, which they have a Mind

to keep, or to get *greater*, which was likewise the Case of all those who signed to have the Author prosecuted. And therefore it is known, that his Grace the Lord Arch-Bishop of *Dublin*, so renowned for his Piety and Wisdom and Love of his Country, absolutely refused to condemn the Book, or the Author.

Lastly, it ought to be considered what Consequence the finding the Bill, may have upon a poor Man perfectly innocent, I mean the Printer. A Lawyer may pick out Expressions, and make them liable to Exception, where no other Man is able to find any: But how can it be suppos'd that an ignorant Printer can be such a *Critick*? He knew the Author's Design was honest, and approv'd by the whole Kingdom: He advised with Friends, who told him there was no Harm in the Book, and he could see none himself. It was sent him in an unknown Hand, but the same in which he receiv'd the three former. He and his Wife have offered to take their Oaths, that they knew not the Author; and therefore to find a Bill, that may bring a Punishment upon the Innocent, will appear *very hard*, to say no worse. For it will be impossible to find the Author, unless he will please to discover himself, although I wonder he ever concealed his Name. But I suppose what he did at first out of Modesty,

defty, he continues to do out of Prudence.  
God protect Us and Him.

I will conclude all with a Fable, ascribed to *Demosthenes*: He had served the People of *Athens* with great Fidelity, in the Station of an *Orator*, when, upon a certain Occasion apprehending to be delivered over to his Enemies, he told the *Athenians*, his Countrymen, the following Story: Once upon a time, the *Wolves* desired a League with the *Sheep*, upon this Condition; that the Cause of Strife might be taken away, which was, the *Shepherds* and *Mastiffs*: This being granted, the *Wolves*, without all Fear, made Hayock of the *Sheep*.

November 11,

1724.





*An Extract of a Book, Entituled, an exact Collection of the Debates of the House of Commons, held at Westminster, October 21, 1680. Pag. 150.*

RESOLUTIONS of the House of Commons in England, Nov. the 13th, 1680.

SEVERAL Persons being examin'd about the Dismissing a Grand Jury in *Middlesex*; the House came to the following *Resolutions*.

RESOLVED, That the Discharging of a Grand Jury, by any Judge, before the End of the Term, Assizes, or Sessions, while Matters are under their Consideration, and not presented, is Arbitrary, Illegal, Destructive to publick Justice, a manifest Violation of his Oath, and is a Means to Subvert the Fundamental Laws of this Kingdom.

RESOLVED, That a Committee be appointed to examine the Proceedings of the Judges in *Westminster-Hall*, and Report the same with their Opinion therein to this House.



A

# LETTER

To the Right Honourable the  
Lord Viscount *Molesworth*.

---

They compassed me about also with Words of Deceit,  
and fought against me without a Cause.

For my Love they are my Adversaries, but I give my  
self unto Prayer.

And they have rewarded me Evil for Good, and Ha-  
tred for my Love. *Psal. cix. 3, 4, 5.*

Seek not to be Judge, being not able to take away Ini-  
quity, lest at any Time thou Fear the Person of the  
Mighty, and lay a stumbling Block in the Way of  
thy Uprightness.

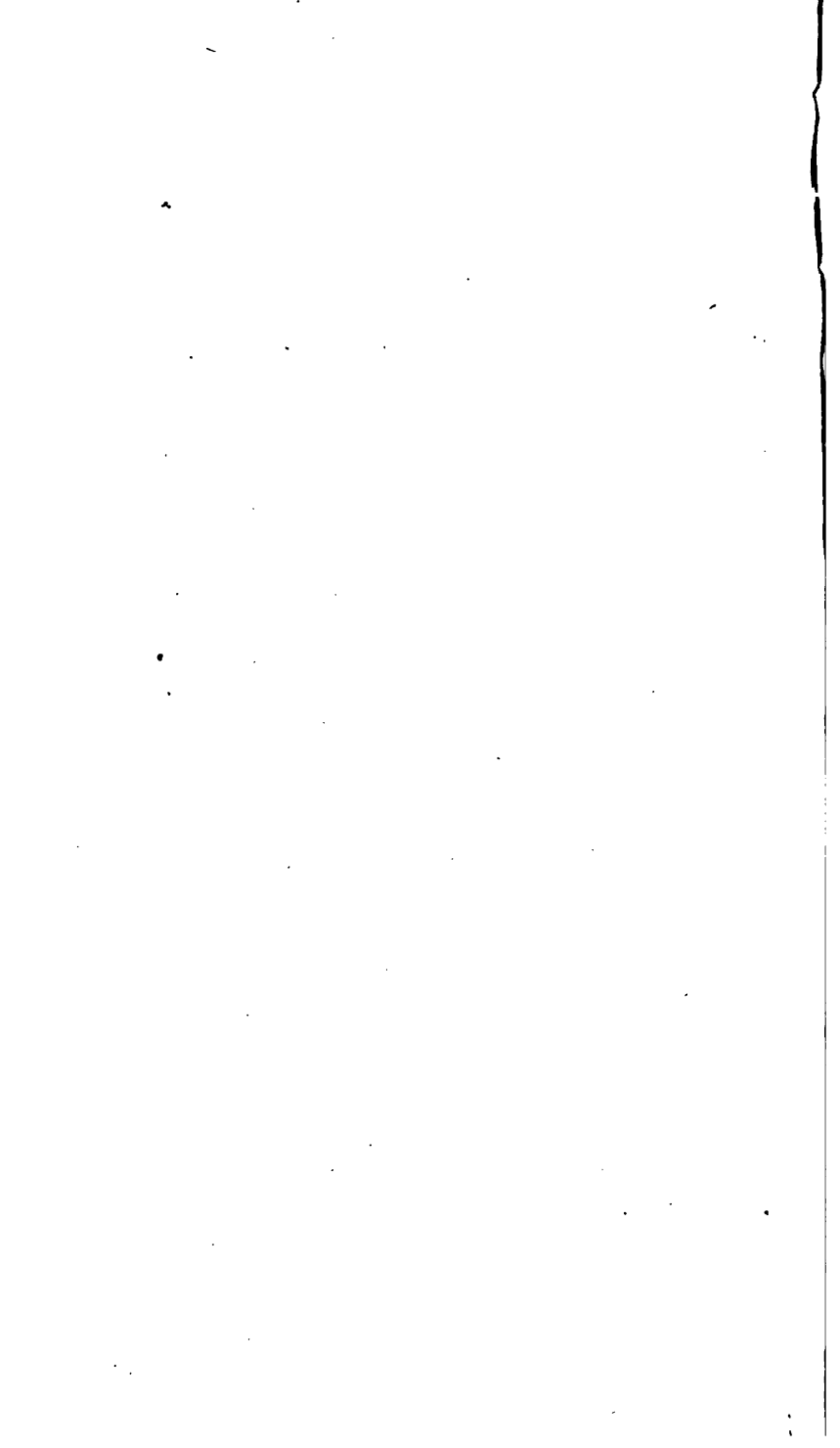
Offend not against the Multitude of a City, and then  
thou shalt not cast thy self down among the People.

Bind not one Sin upon another, for in One thou shalt  
not be unpunished. *Ecclus. vii. 6, 7, 8.*

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*Non jam prima peto Mnestheus, neque vincere certa:  
Quanquam O! Sed supcrent, quibus hoc, Neptune, dedisti.*







## Directions to the Printer.

Mr. Harding,

**W**HEN I sent you my former Papers, I cannot say, I intended you either Good or Hurt, and yet you have happened through my Means to receive Both. I pray God deliver you from any more of the Latter, and increase the Former. Your Trade, particularly in this Kingdom, is of all others the most unfortunately Circumstantiated; for as you deal in the most worthless kind of Trash, the Penny Productions of Pennylefs Scriblers, so you often venture your Liberty and sometimes your Lives, for the Purchase of half a Crown, and by your own Ignorance, are punished for other Mens Actions.

I am afraid, you in particular, think you have Reason to complain of Me, for your own and your Wife's Confinement in Prison, to your  
great



great Expence, as well as Hardship, and for a Prosecution still impending. But I will tell you, Mr. Harding, how that Matter stands. Since the Press hath lain under so strict an Inspection, those who have a Mind to inform the World, are become so cautious, as to keep themselves if possible out of the Way of Danger. My Custom is to dictate to a Prentice who can write in a feigned Hand, and what is written, we send to your House by a Black-guard Boy. But at the same time I do assure you upon my Reputation, that I never did send you any thing, for which I thought you could possibly be called to an Account. And you will be my Witness that I always desired you by a Letter to take some good Advice before you ventured to Print, because I knew the Dexterity of Dealers in the Law, at finding out something to fasten on, where no Evil is meant. I am told indeed, that you did accordingly consult several very able Persons, and even Some who afterwards appeared against you: To which I can only answer; that you must either change your Advisers, or determine to print nothing that comes from a Drapier.

I desire you will send the inclosed Letter, directed to My Lord Viscount Moleworth at his House at Brackdenstown near Swords; but I would have it sent Printed, for the Convenience  
of

*of his Lordship's Reading, because this Counterfeit Hand of my Prentice is not very legible. And if you think fit to publish it, I would have you first get it Read over carefully by some Notable Lawyer: I am assured you will find enough of them who are Friends to the Drapier, and will do it without a Fee, which I am afraid you can ill afford after all your Expences. For although I have taken so much Care, that I think it impossible to find a Topick out of the following Papers, for sending you again to Prison; yet I will not venture to be your Guarantee.*

*This ensuing Letter contains only a short Account of my self, and an Humble Apology for my former Pamphlets, especially the Last, with little Mention of Mr. Wood or his Half-pence, because I have already said enough upon that Subject, until Occasion shall be given for New Fears; and in that Case, you may perhaps hear from me again.*

*I am,*

From my Shop in  
St. Francis streets  
Dec. 14, 1724

*Your Friend*

*and Servant,*

M. B.

POST-

P O S T S C R I P T.

For want of Intercourse between you and Me, which I never will suffer; your People are apt to make very gross Errours in the Press, which I desire you will provide against.



To



To the Right Honourable the Lord  
Viscount *Molesworth*, at his House  
at *Brakdenstown* near *Swords*.

*My LORD,*



Reflect too late on the Maxim  
of common Observers, That those  
who meddle in Matters out of  
their Calling, will have Rea-  
son to repent; which is now  
verified in me: For by engaging in the Trade  
of a Writer, I have drawn upon my self the  
Displeasure of the Government, signified by a  
*Proclamation*, promising a Reward of Three  
Hundred Pounds to the first *faithful* Subject  
who shall be able and inclined to *inform* a-  
gainst me. To which I may add the lauda-  
ble Zeal and Industry of my *Lord Chief Justice*  
in

in his Endeavours to discover so Dangerous a Person. Therefore whether I repent or no, I have certainly Cause to do so, and the common Observation still stands good.

It will sometimes happen, I know not how, in the Course of Human Affairs, that a Man shall be made liable to *Legal* Animadversions, where he has nothing to answer for, either to *God* or his *Country*; and condemned at *Westminster Hall* for what he will never be charged with at the *Day of Judgment*.

After strictly examining my own Heart, and consulting some Divines of great Reputation, I cannot accuse my self of any *Malice* or *Wickedness against the Publick*; of any *Designs to sow Sedition*, of *reflecting on the King and his Ministers*, or of endeavouring to *alienate the Affections of the People of this Kingdom from those of England*. All I can charge my self with, is a weak Attempt to serve a Nation in Danger of Destruction by a most wicked and malicious Projector, without waiting until I were called to its Assistance; which Attempt, however it may perhaps give me the Title of *Pragmatical* and *Overweening*, will never lie a Burthen upon my Conscience. God knows whether I may not with all my Caution have already run my self into Danger, by offering  
thus

thus much in my own Vindication. For I have heard of a *Judge*, who, upon the Criminal's *Appeal* to the *Dreadful Day of Judgment*, told him he had incurred a *Premunire*, for *appealing to a Foreign Jurisdiction*: And of another in *Wales*, who severely checked the Prisoner for offering the same Plea, taxing him with reflecting on the Court by such a Comparison, because *Comparisons were odious*.

But in Order to make some Excuse for being more speculative than others of my Condition, I desire your Lordship's Pardon, while I am doing a very foolish thing, which is, to give you some little Account of my self.

I was bred at a Free-School, where I acquired some little Knowledge in the *Latin Tongue*. I served my Apprenticeship in *London*, and there set up for my self with good Success, till by the *Death of some Friends, and the Misfortunes of Others*, I returned into this Kingdom, and began to employ my Thoughts in cultivating the *Woollen Manufacture* through all its Branches; wherein I met with great Discouragement and powerful Opposers, whose Objections appeared to me very strange and singular. They argued, that the People of *England* would be offended if our Manufactures were brought to equal theirs: and even some of the *Weaving Trade* were my Enemies, which I could not but look upon as *absurd*  
and

and *unnatural*. I remember your Lordship at that Time did me the Honour to come into my Shop, where I shewed you a piece of *Black and White Stuff* just sent from the *Dyer*, which you were pleased to approve of, and be my Customer for it.

However, I was so mortified, that I resolved for the future to sit quietly in my Shop, and deal in *common Goods* like the rest of my Brethren; till it happened some Months ago, considering with my self, that the *lower and poorer Sort of People* wanted a *plain, strong, coarse Stuff*, to defend them against cold *Easterly Winds*, which then blew very fierce and blasting for a long Time together, I contrived one on purpose, which sold very well all over the Kingdom, and preserved many Thousands from *Agues*. I then made a *Second* and a *Third* kind of *Stuffs* for the *Gentry* with the same Success, infomuch, that an *Ague* hath hardly been heard of for some time.

This incited me so far, that I ventured upon a *Fourth* piece made of the best *Irish Wool* I could get, and I thought it Grave and Rich enough to be worn by the best *Lord* or *Judge* of the Land. But of late, some *Great Folks* complain, as I hear, that when they had it on, they felt a *Shuddering in their Limbs*, and have thrown it off in a Rage, cursing to Hell the poor *Drapier* who invented it; so that I am determined never to *work for*  
*Persons*

*Persons of Quality* again, except for your *Lordship* and a *very few more*.

I assure your *Lordship*, upon the Word of an Honest Citizen, that I am not richer by the Value of one of Mr. *Wood's* Half-pence with the Sale of all the several *Stuffs* I have contrived; for I give the whole profit to the *Dyers* and *Pressers*. And therefore I hope you will please to believe that no other Motive, besides the Love of my Country, could engage me to busie my Head and Hands to the Loss of my Time, and the Gain of nothing but *Vexation* and *Ill Will*.

I have now in Hand one *Piece of Stuff* to be woven on purpose for your *Lordship*, although I might be ashamed to offer it you, after I have confessed that it will be made only from the *Shreds and Remnants of the Wool employed in the Former*. However I shall *work* it up as well as I can, and at worst, you need only give it among your Tenants.

I am very sensible how ill your *Lordship* is like to be entertained with the Pedantry of a *Drapier* in the Terms of his own Trade. How will the Matter be mended, when you find me entring again, though very sparingly, into an *Affair of State*? For such is now grown the Controversie with Mr. *Wood*, if *some great Lawyers* are to be credited. And as often it happens at Play, that Men begin with *Farthings*, and go on to

M

Gold



*Gold*, till some of them lose their Estates and die in Jail; so it may possibly fall out in my Case, that by *playing* too long with Mr. *Wood's* Halfpence, I may be drawn in to pay a *Fine*, double to the Reward for *Betraying* me, be sent to Prison, and *not be delivered thence 'till I shall have payed the uttermost Parting.*

There are, My Lord, three sorts of Persons with whom I am resolved never to dispute; a *High-way-man* with a Pistol at my Breast, a *Troop of Dragoons* who come to plunder my House, and a *Man of the Law* who can make a *Merit* of accusing me. In each of these Cases, *which are almost the same*, the best Method is to *keep out of the Way*, and the next Best is to *deliver your Money, surrender your House, and confess nothing.*

I am told that the two points in my last Letter, from which an Occasion of Offence hath been taken, are where I mention his Majesty's Answer to the Address of the House of Lords upon Mr. *Wood's* Patent, and where I discourse upon *Ireland's* being a *Dependent Kingdom*. As to the Former, I can only say, that I have treated it with the utmost Respect and Caution, and I thought it necessary to shew where *Wood's* Patent differed in many essential parts, from all others that ever had been granted, because the contrary had for want of due Information been so strongly

strongly and so largely asserted. As to the other, of *Ireland's Dependency*, I confess to have often heard it mentioned, but was never able to understand what it meant. This gave me the Curiosity to enquire among several Eminent Lawyers, who professed they knew nothing of the Matter. I then turned over all the Statutes of both Kingdoms without the least Information, further than an *Irish* Act that I quoted of the 33d of *Henry VIII.* uniting *Ireland* to *England* under one King. I cannot say, I was *sorry* to be disappointed in my Search, because it is certain, I could be *contented* to *depend* only upon *God* and my *Prince* and the *Laws of my own Country*, after the *Manner of other Nations*. But since my *Betters* are of a *different Opinion*, and desire *further Dependencies*, I shall readily submit, not insisting on the *Exception* I made of *M. B. Drapier*. For indeed that Hint was borrowed from an idle Story I had heard in *England*, which perhaps may be common and beaten; but because it *insinuates neither Treason nor Sediton*, I will just barely relate it.

Some Hundred Years ago when the Peers were so great that the Commons were looked upon as little better than their *Dependents*, a Bill was brought in for making some new Additions to the Power and Privileges of the Peerage. After it was read, one Mr. *Drue* a Member of the

House, stood up, and said, he very much approved the Bill, and would give his Vote to have it pass; but however, for some Reasons best known to himself, he desired that a Clause might be inserted for *excepting the Family of the Drues*. The Odness of the Proposition taught others to reflect a little, and the Bill was thrown out.

Whether I were mistaken, or WENT TOO FAR in examining the *Dependency*, must be left to the impartial Judgment of the World, as well as to the Courts of Judicature, although indeed not in so *effectual* and *decisive a Manner*. But to affirm, as I hear some do, in order to countenance a fearful and servile Spirit, that this point did not *belong to my Subject*, is a False and Foolish Objection. There were several scandalous Reports industriously spread by *Wood* and his Accomplices to discourage all Opposition against his infamous Project. They gave it out that we were prepared for a *Rebellion*, that we disputed the King's *Prerogative*, and were shaking off our *Dependency*. The first went so far, and obtained so much Belief against the most visible Demonstrations to the contrary, that a great Person of this Kingdom, now in *England*, sent over such an Account of it to his Friends, as would make any good Subject both grieve and tremble. I thought it therefore necessary to treat

treat that Calumny as it deserved. Then I proved by an invincible Argument, that we could have no Intention to dispute his Majesty's *Prerogative*, because the *Prerogative* was not concerned in the Question, the Civilians and Lawyers of all Nations agreeing that *Copper is not Money*. And lastly to clear us from the Imputation of shaking off our *Dependency*; I shewed wherein as I thought this *Dependency* consisted, and cited the Statute above-mentioned made in *Ireland*, by which it is enacted, that *whoever is King of England shall be King of Ireland*, and that the Two Kingdoms shall be *for ever knit together under one King*. This, as I conceived, did wholly acquit us of intending to break our *Dependency*, because it was altogether out of our Power, for surely no King of *England* will ever consent to the Repeal of this Statute.

But upon this Article I am charged with a heavier Accusation. It is said I WENT TOO FAR, when I declared, that *if ever the Pretender should come to be fixed upon the Throne of England (which God forbid) I would so far venture to transgress this Statute, that I would lose the last Drop of my Blood before I would submit to him as King of Ireland*.

This I hear on all Sides, is the strongest and weightiest Objection against me, and which hath given the most Offence; that I should be so bold

to declare against a direct Statute, and that any Motive how strong soever, could make me reject a King whom *England* should receive. Now if in defending my self from this Accusation I should freely confess, that I WENT TOO FAR, that the Expression was very indiscreet, although occasioned by my Zeal for his present Majesty and his Protestant Line in the House of *Hannover*, that I shall be careful never to offend again in the like kind, and that I hope this free Acknowledgement and Sorrow for my Error, will be some Attonement and a little soften the Hearts of my powerful Adversaries: I say, if I should offer such a Defence as this, I do not doubt but some People would wrest it to an ill Meaning by some spiteful Interpretation, and therefore since I cannot think of any other Answer, which that Paragraph can admit, I will leave it to the Mercy of every Candid Reader.

I will now venture to tell your Lordship a Secret, wherein I fear you are too deeply concerned. You will therefore please to know that this Habit of Writing and Discoursing, wherein I unfortunately differ from *almost* the whole Kingdom, and am apt to Grate the Ears of more than I could wish, was acquired during my Apprenticeship in *London*, and a long Residence there after I had set up for my self. Upon my Return and Settlement here, I thought I had only *changed one*  
*Country*

*Country of Freedom for another.* I had been long conversing with the Writings of your Lordship, Mr. *Lock*, Mr. *Molineaux*, Colonel *Sidney* and other Dangerous Authors, who talk of *Liberty as a Blessing, to which the whole Race of Mankind hath an original Title, whereof nothing but unlawful Force can divest them.* I knew a good deal of the several *Gothick* Institutions in *Europe*, and by what Incidents and Events they come to be destroyed; and I ever thought it the most uncontrolled and universally agreed Maxim, that *Freedom consists in a People being Governed by Laws made with their own Consent, and Slavery in the Contrary.* I have been likewise told, and believe it to be true, that *Liberty and Property*, are Words of known Use and Signification in this Kingdom, and the very *Lawyers* pretend to understand, and have them often in their Mouths. These were the Errors which have misled me, and to which alone I must impute the severe Treatment I have received. But I shall in Time grow *Wiser*, and learn to consider my *Driver*, the *Road I am in*, and *with whom I am Yoked.* This I will venture to say, that the boldest and most obnoxious Words I ever delivered, would in *England* have only exposed me as a stupid Fool, who went to prove that *the Sun shone in a clear Summer's Day*; and I have Witnesses ready to depose that your Lordship hath

said and writ Fifty times worse, and what is still an Aggravation, with infinitely more Wit and Learning, and stronger Arguments: So that as Politicks run, I do not know a Person of more exceptionable Principles than your self; and if ever I shall be discovered, I think you will be bound in Honour to pay my Fine, and support me in Prison; or else I may chance to *Inform* against you by Way of *Reprisal*.

In the mean time, I beg your Lordship to receive my Confession, that if there be any such thing as a *Dependency* of *Ireland* upon *England*, otherwise than as I have explained it, either by the *Law of God*, of *Nature*, of *Reason*, of *Nations*, or of the *Land* (which I shall never hereafter contest) then was the *Proclamation* against me, the most *Merciful* that ever was put out, and instead of accusing me as *Malicious*, *Wicked* and *Seditious*, it might have been directly as guilty of *High Treason*.

All I desire is, that the Cause of my Country against Mr. *Wood* may not suffer by any Inadvertency of mine; whether *Ireland* depend upon *England*, or only upon *God*, the *King* and the *Law*, I hope no Man will assert that it *depends* upon Mr. *Wood*. I should be heartily sorry that this *Commendable* Resentment against me should accidentally (and *I hope*, what was never intended) strike a Damp upon that Spirit in all Ranks  
and

and Corporations of Men against the desperate and ruinous Design of Mr. *Wood*. Let my Countreymen blot out those Parts in my last Letter which they dislike, and let no *Rust* remain on my *Sword*, to cure the Wounds I have given to our most mortal Enemy. When Sir *Charles Sidney* was taking the Oaths, where several Things were to be *Renounced*, he said he loved *Renouncing*, asked if any more were to be *Renounced*, for he was ready to *Renounce* as much as they pleased. Although I am not so thorough a *Renouncer*; yet let me have but *Good City Security* against this pestilent Coinage, and I shall be ready not only to *Renounce* every Syllable in all my Four Letters, but deliver them chearfully with my own *Hands* into *those* of the *Common Hangman*, to be burnt with no better Company than the *Coiner's Effigies*, if any part of it hath escaped out of the *Secular Hands* of the *Rabble*.

But whatever the Sentiments of *some People* may be, I think it is agreed that many of those who *Subscribed* against me, are on the Side of a vast Majority in the Kingdom who opposed Mr. *Wood*; and it was with great Satisfaction that I observed some *Right Honourable Names* very *amicably* joined with my own at the Bottom of a *strong Declaration* against him and his Coin. But if the Admission of it among us be *already*  
*deter-*



*determined*, the *Worthy* Person who is to *Betray* me ought in Prudence to do it with all convenient Speed, or else it may be difficult to find Three hundred Pounds in *Sterling* for the Discharge of his *Hire*; when the Publick shall have lost Five hundred thousand, if there be so much in the Nation, besides Four Fifths of its Annual Income for ever.

I am told by Lawyers, that in Quarrels between Man and Man, it is of much Weight, which of them gave the first Provocation or struck the first Blow. It is manifest that Mr. *Wood* hath done both, and therefore I should humbly propose to have him first *Hanged*, and his *Dross* thrown into the Sea; after which the *Drapier* will be ready to stand his Tryal. *It must needs be that Offences come, but Wo unto him by whom the Offence cometh.* If Mr. *Wood* had held his *Hand* every body else would have held their *Tongues*, and then there would have been little Need of *Pamphlets*, *Juries*, or *Proclamations* upon this Occasion. The Provocation must needs have been Great, which could stir up an obscure indolent *Drapier* to become an *Author*. One would almost think the very *Stones* in the Street would *rise* up in such a Cause: And I am not sure they will not *do so* against Mr. *Wood* if ever he comes within their Reach. It is a known Story of the Dumb Boy, whose

whose Tongue forced a Passage for Speech by the Horrour of seeing a Dagger at his Father's Throat. This may lessen the Wonder that a Tradesman hid in Privacy and Silence should *cry out* when the Life and Being of his Political *Mother* are attempted before his Face, and by so infamous a Hand.

But in the mean time, Mr. *Wood* the *Destroyer* of a Kingdom walks about in Triumph (unless it be true, that he is in Jail for Debt) while he who endeavoured to *assert the Liberty of his Country* is forced to *hide his Head* for occasionally dealing in a Matter of *Controversy*. However, I am not the first who hath been condemned to Death for *gaining a great Victory* over a powerful Enemy, by disobeying for *once* the strict Orders of Military Discipline.

I am now resolved to follow (after the usual Proceeding of Mankind, because it is too late) the Advice given me by a certain *Dean*. He shewed the Mistake I was in of trusting to the general good Will of the People, that I had succeeded hitherto, better than could be expected, but that some Unfortunate *Circumstantial Lapse* would probably bring me within the reach of *Power*. That my good Intentions would be no Security against *those who watched every Motion of my Pen, in the Bitterness of my Soul*. He produced an Instance of a Writer as Innocent,  
as

as disinterested, and as well meaning as my self, where the *Printer*, who had the *Author* in his Power, was prosecuted with the utmost Zeal, the *Jury sent back Nine times*, and the Man given up to the Mercy of the Court. The *Dean* further observed, that I was in a manner left alone to stand the *Battle*, while others who had ten Thousand times better Talents than a *Drapier*, were so prudent to lie still, and perhaps thought it no unpleasant Amusement to look on with Safety, while another was giving them *Diversiſion* at the Hazard of his Liberty and Fortune, and thought they made a sufficient Recompence by a little Applause; whereupon he concluded with a short Story of a *Jew* at *Madrid*, who being condemned to the Fire on Account of his Religion, a Crowd of School-boys following him to the Stake, and apprehending they might lose their *Sport*, if he should happen to recant, would often *clap him on the Back*, and cry, *Sta firme Moyese (Moses, continue stedfast.)*

I allow this Gentleman's Advice to have been good, and his Observations just, and in one Respect my Condition is worse than that of the *Jew*, for *no Recantation will save me*. However, it should seem by *some late Proceedings*, that my State is not altogether deplorable. This I can impute to nothing but the Steadiness of

*two impartial Grand-Juries*, which hath confirmed in me an Opinion I have long entertained; That, as Philosophers say, *Virtue is seated in the Middle*, so in another Sense, the little *Virtue* left in the World is chiefly to be found among the *middle* Rank of Mankind, who are neither *allured* out of her Paths by *Ambition*, nor *driven* by *Poverty*.

Since the *Proclamation* occasioned by my last Letter, and a *due* Preparation for proceeding against me in a Court of Justice, there have been two printed Papers clandestinely spread about, whereof no Man is able to trace the Original, further than by *Conjecture*, which with its usual Charity, lays them to my Account. The former is entituled, *Seasonable Advice*, and appears to have been intended for Information of the Grand-Jury, upon the Supposition of a Bill to be prepared against that Letter. The other is an Extract from a printed Book of Parliamentary Proceedings, in the Year 1680, containing an angry Resolution of the House of Commons in *England*, against *dissolving Grand-Juries*. As to the Former, your Lordship will find it to be the Work of a more artful Hand, than that of a common *Drapier*. It hath been censured for endeavouring to influence the Minds of a Jury, which ought to be wholly free and unbyassed; and for that Reason

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Reason, *it is manifest*, that, no *Judge* was ever known either *upon* or *off* the Bench, either by *Himself*, or his *Dependents*, to use the *least Insinuation*, that might possibly affect the *Passions*, or *Interests* of any one single *Jury-man*, much less of a whole *Jury*; whereof every *Man* must be *convinced*, who will just give himself the *Trouble* to dip into the common printed *Tryals*; so as, it is amazing to think, what a *Number* of *Upright Judges* there have been in both *Kingdoms* for above *Sixty Years* past; which, considering how long they held their *Offices* during *Pleasure*, as they *still* do among us, I account next to a *Miracle*.

As to the other Paper, I must confess it is a sharp *Censure* of an *English* House of *Commons* against *dissolving Grand-Juries* by any *Judge* before the *End* of the *Term*, *Affizes*, or *Sessions*, while *Matters* are under their *Consideration*, and not presented, as *Arbitrary*, *Illegal*, *Destructive* to publick *Justice*, a manifest *Violation* of his *Oath*, and is a means to subvert the *Fundamental* *Laws* of the *Kingdom*.

However, the *Publisher* seems to have been mistaken, in what he aimed at. For whatever *Dependence* there may be of *Ireland* upon *England*, I hope he would not insinuate, that the *Proceedings* of a *Lord Chief Justice* in *Ireland* must *depend* upon a *Resolution* of an *English*  
3
House

House of Commons. Besides, That *Resolution* although it were levelled against a particular Lord Chief Justice, Sir *William Scroggs*, yet the Occasion was directly contrary. For *Scroggs dissolved the Grand Jury of London*, for Fear they should Present, but our's in *Dublin*, was dissolved because they would *not* Present, which *wonderfully alters the Case*. And therefore a *Second Grand Jury* supply'd that Defect, by making a Presentment that hath *pleas'd the whole Kingdom*. However I think it is agreed by all Parties, that both the One and the Other *Jury* behaved themselves in such a Manner, as ought to be remembred to their Honour, while there shall be any Regard left among us for *Virtue or Publick Spirit*.

I am confident your Lordship will be of my Sentiments in one Thing, that some short plain Authentick Tract might be published for the Information both of *Petty and Grand-Juries*, how far their Power reacheth, and where it is limited, and that a printed Copy of such a Treatise might be deposited in every Court, to be consulted by the Jury-men before they consider of their Verdict; by which abundance of Inconveniencies would be avoided, whereof innumerable Instances might be produced from former Times, because I will say nothing of the Present.

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I have read somewhere of an *Eastern King* who put a *Judge* to Death for an iniquitous Sentence, and order'd his *Hide to be stuffed into a Cushion*, and placed upon the Tribunal for the Son to sit on, who was preferred to his Father's Office. I fancy such a *Memorial* might not have been unuseful to a Son of *Sir William Scroggs*, and that both he and his Successors would often *wriggle* in their Seats as long as the *Cushion* lasted; I wish the Relator had told us what Number of such *Cushions* there might be in that Country.

I cannot but observe to your Lordship how Nice and Dangerous a Point it is grown for a private Person to inform the People, even in an Affair where the publick Interest and Safety are so highly concerned as that of *Mr. Wood*; and this in a Country, where *Loyalty is woven into the very Hearts of the People*, seems a little Extraordinary. *Sir William Scroggs* was the first who introduc'd that *commendable Acuteness into the Courts of Judicature*; but how far this Practice hath been imitated by his Successors, or *strained upon Occasion*, is out of my Knowledge. When Pamphlets, *unpleasing to the Ministry*, were presented as Libels, he would order the offensive Paragraphs to be read before him, and said it was strange that the Judges and Lawyers of the King's Bench should be  
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Duller than all the People of *England*: And he was often so very happy in applying the Initial Letters of Names, and expounding *dubious Hints* (the two common Expedients among Writers of that Class for escaping the Law) that he discovered much *more* than ever the Authors intended, as many of them or their Printers found to their Cost. If such Methods are to be followed in examining what I have already written, or may write hereafter upon the Subject of Mr. *Wood*, I defy any Man of fifty Times my Understanding and Caution to avoid being *entrapped*, unless he will be content to write what none will read, by repeating over the old Arguments and Computations, whereof the World is already grown weary. So that my Good Friend *Harding* lies under this *Dilemma*, either to let my *Learned Works* hang for ever a drying upon his Lines, or venture to publish them at the Hazard of being laid by the Heels.

I need not tell your Lordship where the Difficulty lies; It is true, that the King and the Laws *permit* us to refuse this Coin of Mr. *Wood*, but at the same Time it is equally true, that the King and the Laws *permit* us to receive it. Now it is most certain, the Ministers in *England* do not suppose the Consequences of uttering that Brass among us to be so ruinous as we apprehend; because, doubtless if they

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understood it in that Light, they are Persons of too much Honour and Justice not to use their Credit with his Majesty for saving a *most Loyal Kingdom from Destruction*. But as long as it shall please those great Persons to think that Coin will not be *so very* pernicious to us, we lie under the Disadvantage of being censured as *Obstinate* in not complying with a Royal Patent. Therefore nothing remains, but to make Use of that *Liberty* which the *King* and the *Laws* have left us, by continuing to refuse this Coin, and by frequent Remembrances to keep up that Spirit raised against it, which otherwise may be apt to flag, and perhaps in Time to sink altogether. For, any publick Order against receiving or uttering Mr. *Wood's* Half-pence is not *reasonably* to be expected in this Kingdom, without Directions from *England*, which I think no body presumes, or is so sanguine to hope.

But to confess the Truth, my Lord, I begin to grow weary of my Office as a Writer, and could heartily wish it were devolved upon my *Brethren*, the Makers of *Songs* and *Ballads*, who, perhaps, are the best qualified at present to gather up the Gleanings of this Controversy. As to my self, it hath been my Misfortune to begin and pursue it upon a wrong Foundation. For having detected the Frauds and Falshoods  
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of this Vile Impostor *Wood* in every Part, I foolishly *disdain'd* to have Recourse to *Whining*, *Lamenting*, and *Crying for Mercy*, but rather chose to *appeal* to *Law* and *Liberty*, and the *common Rights of Mankind*, without considering the *Climate* I was in.

Since your last Residence in *Ireland*; I frequently have taken my Nag to ride about your Grounds, where I fancy'd my self to feel an Air of *Freedom* breathing round me, and I am glad the low Condition of a Tradesman did not qualify me to wait on you at your House, for then I am afraid my Writings would not have escaped *severer Censures*. But I have lately sold my Nag, and honestly told his greatest Fault, which was that of snuffing up the Air about *Brackdenstown*, whereby he became such a Lover of *Liberty*, that I could scarce hold him in. I have likewise buried at the Bottom of a strong Chest your Lordship's Writings under a Heap of others that Treat of *Liberty*, and spread over a *Layer* or two of *Hobs*, *Filmer*, *Boding*, and many more Authors of that Stamp, to be readiest at Hand, whenever I shall be disposed to take up a *New Set* of Principles in Government. In the mean time I design quietly to look to my Shop, and keep as far out of your Lordship's Influence as possible; and if you ever see any more of my Writings on this

Subject, I promise you shall find them as Innocent, as insipid, and without a Sting, as what I have now offered you. But if your Lordship will please to give me an easy Lease of some Part of your Estate in *Yorkshire*, thither I will carry my Chest, and turning it upside down, resume my Political Reading where I left it off; feed on plain homely Fare, and Live and Die a FREE Honest *English* Farmer: But not without Regret for leaving my Country-men under the Dread of the Brazen Talons of Mr. *Wood*; My Most Loyal and Innocent Country-men, to whom I owe so much for their good Opinion of Me, and my Poor endeavours to serve them. I am, with the greatest Respect,

*My Lord,*

From my Shop in  
St. Francis-Street,  
Dec. 14, 1724.

*Your Lordship's*

*Most Obedient,*

*and most Humble Servant,*

M. B.

SOME



SOME  
CONSIDERATIONS  
ON THE  
ATTEMPTS  
MADE TO  
Pass Mr. Wood's Brass Money in *Ireland.*







*Some CONSIDERATIONS on the Attempts made to pass Mr. WOOD'S Brass Money in Ireland.*

*(By a Lover of his Country.)*



IT is a melancholy Consideration, to see *the several Resolutions and Addresses of both Houses of Parliament of Ireland, during their late Session, the late Address of his Majesties Justices and Privy-Council of that Kingdom, and the Petition of the County of the City of Dublin;* whereby the unanimous Sense of this Nation, and *the great Apprehensions they were under, from importing and uttering Copper Half-pence and Farthings in Ireland, by Virtue of the Patent granted to William Wood,* have been represented in the strongest Terms: I say, it is a melancholy Consideration,

to see the Force of all these Representations, eluded by the Petitions of a single Person, such as Mr. *Wood*.

If Justice stood on the Side of this single Person, it ought to give good Men Pleasure to see that Right should take Place; but when, on the contrary, the Common-Weal of a whole Nation, the quieting the Minds of a People distracted with Apprehension of the utmost Danger to their Properties, nay, the Preservation of the Purity of their Laws, is overborn by private Interest, what good Man but must lament such an unhappy State of Affairs?

And since the Matter was of this Importance, and seem'd to carry with it the Testimony of Heaven, in the universal Cry of the People, how could any particular Members of a Community, which had thus with one Voice deprecated the Evil, with any Shew of Reason take upon them, the Risque of any Miscarriage in a Tryal, in a subordinate Court?

It was to our gracious Sovereign, that all these Addresses and Petitions were presented; It was into his fatherly Hands the whole Nation committed the Care of their Cause; and it would have been the highest Piece of Arrogance, for any Person to have presumed to take upon themselves, a share in that Trust, which was only reposed in his Majesty's Hands. It

is no wonder therefore, *That every one was guarded with Caution, against giving any Advice or Opinion in this Matter of State; for which Reason they ought to apprehend great Danger to themselves, from meddling in it.*

Tho' *this Proceeding may seem extraordinary*; yet it being on a most extraordinary Matter, on a Matter of such Importance, as seemed to involve the civil Rights and Properties of a whole Nation in the Issue of it; on a Matter wherein the Lords and Commons were Complainants, and the King immediately concerned, not only as general Father of his People, but also as particular and only Trustee, in whom his People reposed entire Confidence to redress the Grievances complained of; was it not entirely reasonable and fit, that every particular Person of this Kingdom, should rest upon what was done by the whole Body of the People duly assembled in Parliament, and not arrogantly assume to themselves, a Power of putting the Fate of this Nation to an Issue before Twelve Men?

Since then it plainly appears, that this Matter is of such a high Nature, that no particular Person ought to have intermeddled in it; it is to be presumed, that the Non-appearance of Persons *to support the united Sense of both Houses of Parliament of Ireland*, can never be construed

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ed as a general Diffidence, of being able to support the Charge brought against the Patent and Patentee; tho' indeed it might proceed from a general and a very reasonable *Apprehension of a Miscarriage* in this important Affair; wherein both Houses of Parliament had declared themselves so fully convinced, and satisfied upon Evidence, and Examinations taken in the most solemn Manner; that for my part, I (and so I hope every true Lover of his Country on his part) will look upon their Resolutions, to have the same Dignity (in this Case) with a Maxim in Law, *Quia Maxima est earum dignitas, & certissima Autoritas, atque quòd Maximè omnibus probentur.*

And therefore I don't presume to enter the Lists, in order to support the Resolutions of both Houses of Parliament; for I look upon it, that they are *so sure and uncontrollable, that they ought not to be questioned*; but it shall be the Business of this Paper, to point out some of the Mischiefs, which will naturally result from this Coinage of Mr. Wood's, in case it should be forced upon us.

We are told, that the Power of issuing this Money of Mr. Wood's, is limited, and without any Compulsion, and Currency enforced, to be receiv'd by such only, as would voluntarily and willingly accept the same. But then it is melancholy to behold, that this Patent is explained to be

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Obligatory on all his Majesty's Officers and Ministers, to receive the same.

By this Means there is a Foundation laid for the most unheard-of Confusion that ever was introduced into the Business of a Nation; for here is established a Species of Money, made of the basest Metal, which none in Employments under his Majesty must refuse in Payments to the Crown or to themselves, and yet all the rest of his Subjects are at Liberty to refuse the same in Payments to be made to them, either by his Majesty, or by any other Person.

Thus the Revenue of the Crown will be *Highly Prejudiced*, by the Want of intrinsick Value in the Coin with which it is paid; and the Army and all others in Employments under his Majesty, are the Persons, who, in the first Place, must bear the Burthen of this Mischief. For if they are the only Persons who are *Obliged* to receive this Coin as current Money, it is to be presum'd that no other Persons will receive the same but with considerable Allowance for the Difference between the *Brass Money*, and that made of Gold or Silver.

And even with a considerable Allowance, it will be hard to conceive how this *Brass Money* will find any Degree of Currency in the World, without the Assistance of a Set of Men, who may probably raise great Estates in this unsettled Course

*Paper*  
 Course of Affairs; but such a Set of People ought never to be encouraged by a wise Government; for they will make their Fortunes by the Losses of good Subjects, and by preying on the Revenue of the Prince: And yet those *Hucksterers, or Money-jobbers* will be found necessary if this *Brass Money* is made current in the *Exchequer*.

To shew in some Measure the Proportion of this Mischief to his Majesty's Revenue, and to those in immediate Offices under him: It must be considered, that the gross Revenue of this Kingdom is about *500,000 l. per Annum*; out of which must be deducted the Charge of Collection and Draw-backs; which to be sure, the several Collectors, and those who are to receive the Draw-backs, will take Care to receive in *Sterling Money*, about *80,000 l. per Annum*; and there will remain for the Discharge of the Civil and Military Lists, Pensions, &c. *420,000 l. per Annum*, which Sum, it is probable, issues out of the Treasury by monthly Payments of about *35,000 l. per Month*; for otherwise the current Cash in this Nation could not possibly pay the Revenue, and serve to carry on, even the little Business of this Country, for it has never been computed that our current Coin amounts to more than *500,000 l.* So that if *40,000 l.* of Mr. Wood's *Brass Money* is thrown in upon us  
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(even admitting that no more of this Species should be brought in) it is manifest that that Sum will be near one Twelfth of the whole Coin in the Nation; and more than one Month's Pay of the Civil and Military Lists, and Pensions, &c. of this Kingdom.

If this Sum should stagnate in the Treasury, it is certain there will be no greater Loss (immediately brought) by this Coin to the Revenue, than the Money that there lies dead amounts to: But if it is issued in monthly Payments to the Army, and other his Majesty's Officers and Ministers, as in all probability it must; then this Coin, being composed of a base Metal, current only in the Exchequer, where it is receiv'd at an imaginary Value, of at least 60 *per Cent.* more than the real Value of the Material, it will be suddenly paid back again to the Collectors, and by that means pass thro' the Treasury, at least three times in every Year; for there, we are told, it is to meet with *no Let or Molestation.*

And seeing the Currency of this Money is not enforced on any other of his Majesty's Subjects, it is easy to conceive, that the difference of Value between this Coin, and the Gold and Silver which will be current in the Nation, will be settled by the *Money-jobbers*, at about 20 *per Cent.* discount.

By which means alone, there will be lost in the intrinſick Value of the Revenue the Sum of 24000 *l. per Ann.* without computing for the Loſſes which muſt neceſſarily be brought to the Revenue, by the general diffidence, which the introducing this Coin will create among the People; all which will be manifeſtly *deſtructive of the Trade and Commerce of the Kingdom, and of dangerous Conſequence to the Properties of the Subject.*

And yet the Evil has been here computed on a Suppoſition that only 40,000 *l.* of this Money will be utter'd in the Kingdom; but I take it to be impoſſible to limit the quantity that ſhall be brought in, eſpecially if the Importers of it, have ſo ſure a Market for the ſame as the *Exchequer.*

For tho' his Majesty ſhould be able to prevent Mr. *Wood* from Coining any more than 40,000 *l.* and ſhould never hereafter be prevailed upon to grant *his ſpecial Licence or Authority*, to enlarge that Sum, yet it will be impoſſible to prevent the Importation of this ſort of Coin from other Nations. And there have been ſuch Variety of *Dyes* made uſe of by Mr. *Wood* in Stamping his Money, that it makes the Diſcovery of Counterfeits more difficult, and the Profit is ſo great that it will be a ſufficient Temptation to our induſtrious Neighbours of *Holland* to ſend large Quantities

ties of this Coin to so sure a Market as the *Exchequer*.

And perhaps it may be a Question among Lawyers, whether a Man can be punished at the King's Suit, for counterfeiting this Coin, because it is not the current Coin of the Kingdom; for tho' these Half-pence are to be received as Money in the Exchequer, yet in Trade they are no better than Counters, and therefore the Patent may perhaps be construed to be no more than a Grant of a *Monopoly* to make those Counters.

But it is worth observing, that if this Patent is so worded, as that his Majesty's Officers, employed in the Receipt of his Revenue, can't refuse receiving this Coin, it is directly contrary to Two Acts of Parliament now in force in this Kingdom, and which are to be found in the Books of Rates distributed among the Officers of the Revenue.

For by the Act of Tonnage and Poundage, 14 and 15 *Car. II.* cap. 9. the Duties thereby granted to his Majesty and his Successors, are to be paid in lawful Money of *England*. And by the Act of Excise, or New-Impost, 14 and 15. *Car. II.* cap. 8. it is expressly declared and enacted, *That the several Rates and Duties of Excise, and all Fines, Penalties, Forfeitures, or other Sum, or Sums of Money rated, imposed, set, or forfeited, in and by this Act, are meant*

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*and intended to be Current and Lawful Money or Monies of England, and that all and every of the same, be therefore demanded, received, paid and satisfied accordingly.*

By these Acts it is manifest, that the Collectors are obliged to receive the several Duties arising from the Custom and Excise, in no other Money but such as is current and lawful Money of *England*; and Mr. *Wood's* Half-pence and Farthings not being current or lawful Money in *England*, or in this Kingdom, if this Patent is obligatory on them to receive Payments in this Coin, it is contrary to Acts of Parliament, and therefore void in it self.

And if the several Collectors of his Majesty's Revenue in this Kingdom, should receive the said Duties, or any part of them, in Mr. *Wood's* *Brass Money*, it would be assuming to themselves a Power to dispense with those Acts of Parliament, contrary to the Sense of both Houses of Parliament, and contrary to their respective Oaths; so that it seems highly reasonable, because consonant to Law, that *the Officers of the Revenue should give Orders to the inferior Officers, not to receive this Coin.*

Perhaps it will be said, that the King hath a Power to direct what Coin he pleases to be received by the Officers of his Revenue, and that this Patent is in consequence of such a Prerogative.

tive. But it is to be hoped, that this Doctrine will never be maintained, in favour of a Coin, to which the whole Nation, as well in Parliament assembled, as in their private Capacities, have shewed a general Dislike.

Moreover, as this Case stands circumstanced, it is a great Question, whether his Majesty hath such a dispensing Power: For tho' it should be allowed, that his Majesty might direct the Receipt of his own Revenue in what Coin he pleases; yet it is most certain, that his Majesty does not intend to enforce the Currency of *Wood's Money* among any of his Subjects, much less doth his Majesty intend to oblige those, who are intitled by Act of Parliament, to be paid in current Money of *England*; to receive this Money of *Mr. Wood's*.

And it is plain, that by the Act of Excise, there are several *Fines, Penalties* and *Forfeitures*, which by Virtue of that Act, are to be received in current Money of *England*; and to half those *Fines, Forfeitures* and *Penalties*, the Informers are intitled by Virtue of the said Act: So that if the Officers should be obliged to receive them in *Brass Money*, the Informers must necessarily lose the Benefit of the said Act: And I may venture to say, that that Act cannot be repealed but by another Act, to be made by King, Lords and Commons, and not by a Patent.



All these Things having been, among many other very weighty Matters, laid before both Houses of Parliament of *Ireland*; it is not to be wondred, that *they represent, that the Patent had been obtained in a clandestine and unprecedented Manner, and by notorious Misrepresentations of the State of Ireland.* For what can be more Clandestine, than to obtain a Patent with Powers, not only *highly prejudicial to his Majesty's Revenue, destructive of the Trade and Commerce of the Kingdom, and of dangerous Consequence to the Properties of the Subject,* but also contrary to several Acts of Parliament? And that it was an unprecedented Attempt, at least in this Reign, will be readily allowed; therefore all the Representations made of the State of *Ireland*, in order to obtain this Patent, may with great Truth be called *Notorious Misrepresentations.*

But it has been said, that his Majesty cannot proceed against the Patentee, but according to the known Rules and Maxims of Law and Justice: And God forbid that any one of this Kingdom, should advise his Majesty to Subvert or Dispense with any of our Laws. No Part of the Addresses from the Houses of Parliament of *Ireland*, has the least Tendency this way.

For tho' the House of Commons, in their second Address to his Majesty, *most humbly beseech his Majesty, that he will be graciously pleased to give Directions to the several Officers, intrusted with the Receipt of his Majesty's Revenue, that they do not on any pretence whatsoever, utter such Half-pence and Farthings*: Yet, if his Majesty had been graciously pleased to have given Orders, according to this humble Address of his People of Ireland; it is humbly conceived, that this would have been only an Affirmance of the Law of the Land, as hath been said, and not any way contrary to Law.

For tho' his Majesty by *his Patent under the Great Seal of Great Britain, Wills, Requirers, and Commands his Lieutenant, Deputy, or other Chief Governor or Governours of his Kingdom of Ireland, and all other Officers and Ministers of his Majesty, his Heirs and Successors in England; Ireland or elsewhere, to be Aiding and Assisting to the said William Wood his Executors, &c. in the Execution of all or any the Powers, Authorities, Directions, Matters or Things to be executed by him or them, or for his or their Benefit or Advantage, by Virtue, and in Pursuance of the said Indentures*; Yet it is *in all things as becometh, &c.* And this is to be expounded by the known Laws of the Land, and by other Parts of the said Patent, whereby it is manifest

that his Majesty never intended *to inforce the Currency of this Money, to be received by any Person, that would not Voluntarily and Wilfully accept the same.*

Therefore since the People have shewed a general Dislike of this Coin, it is to be hoped, that some Method will be found out to ease their Minds, from the Distraction they are under on this Occasion.





S O M E  
R E A S O N S

Shewing the Necessity the People of  
IRELAND are under for con-  
tinuing to refuse Mr. WOOD'S  
Coinage.

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By the Author of the Considerations.

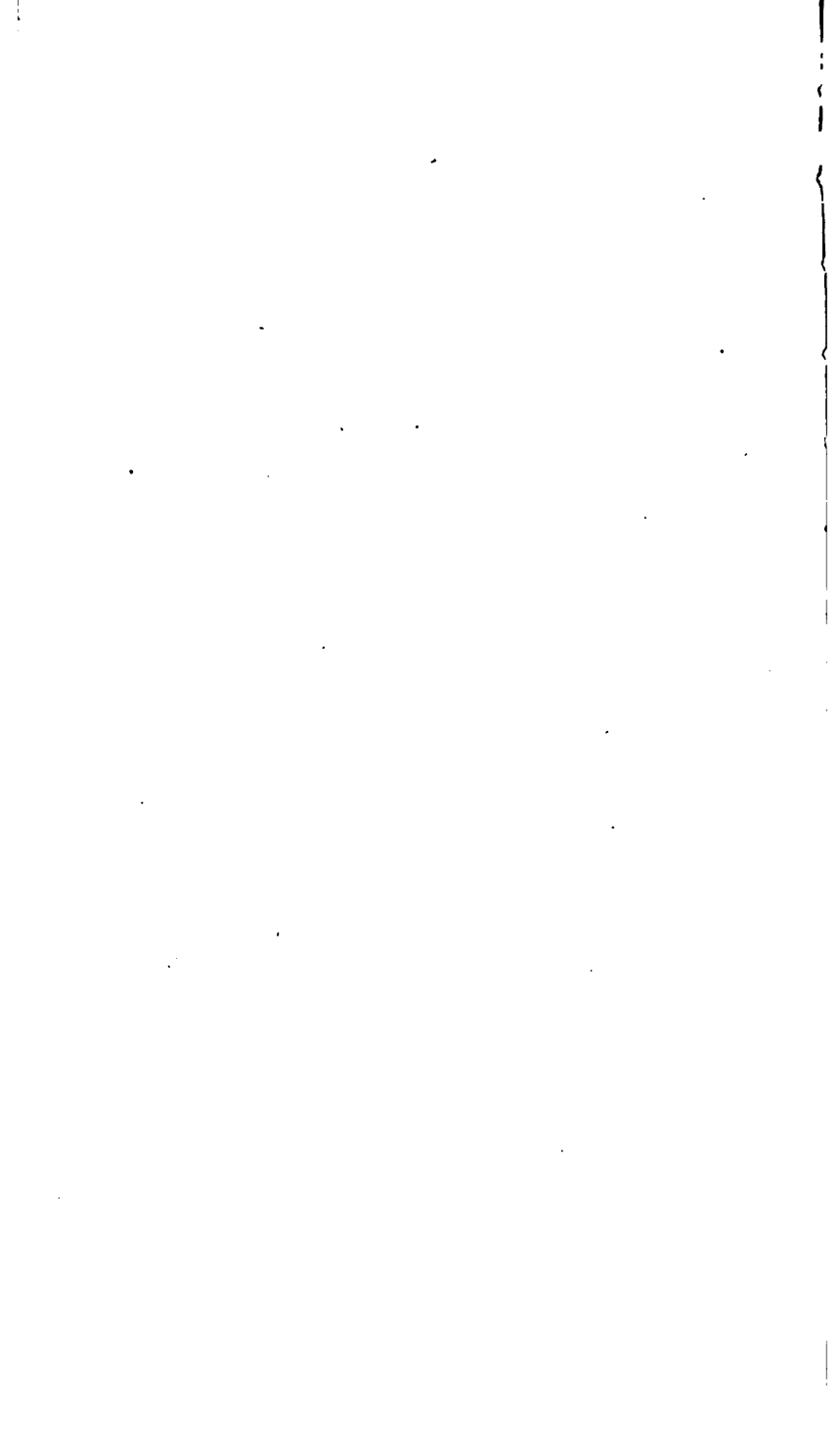
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*Isthuc est Sapere, non quod ante pedes modo est  
Videre, sed etiam illa, quæ futura sunt,  
Prospicere.*——

Teren.

*Nullæ sunt occultiores insidiæ, quam quæ latent in simu-  
latione Officii, aut in aliquo necessitudinis nomine, nam  
eum qui palam est adversarius, facile cavendo vitare  
possis: hoc vero occultum intestinum ac domesticum malum,  
non modo existit, verum etiam opprimit, antequam pro-  
spicere atque explorare potueris.*







To the Right Honourable ALLAN,  
Lord Viscount MIDDLETON,  
Lord High-Chancellor of IRE-  
LAND.

My LORD,



*T has been constantly observed of your Lordship, that you have found out the Secret, of making the PATRIOT and MINISTER agree in the same Person; for, as you have ever been Remarkable for your Adherence to the Interest of the Crown, so you have always consulted the Good of the Common Wealth. It is for this Reason, that I presume to put the following Sheets under your Protection; that my Readers, by seeing your Lordship's Name at the Head of them, may be, at the first View, assured, they are writ with a just Regard to the Prerogative of the King, and the Interest of this Country. I am with the most profound Respect,*

My Lord,

Your Lordship's most  
Humble and most  
Obedient Servant,



*Some REASONS shewing the Necessity the People of IRELAND are under for continuing to refuse Mr. WOOD'S Coinage.*



WHEN *distinct Property* was settled by the Law of Man, and Traffick became the Business of the whole World; it was absolutely necessary, that some common Measure should be establish'd for the more ready setting a Value on the Possessions of Men, and the Goods or Commodities they traded in.

And as it was necessary, that this *Common Measure* should always preserve an *Intrinsic Value*, it seems the Reason, that universal Consent fixed on *Gold and Silver*, as the properest Materials to constitute such a *Common Measure*. For they being of all other Metals the purest, and most durable, and therefore the most proper for Preservation, are, at the same Time, the

the rarest and the most difficult to be come at, which must always continue an *Intrinsic Value* in them.

But however this Value came first to be given *Gold* and *Silver*, we find, they were made the *Standard* or *Common Measure of Value*, of all other Commodities; and those two Metals were divided into small Parcels, for the readier Carriage from place to place; and in order to certify the Fineness and Weight of those Pieces, there were Stamps put on them by publick Authority: And those Pieces, thus stamp'd, were call'd *Money*, which received particular Names, and Denominations, in the different Countries, where they were thus stamped or coined.

Yet, taking it as the *Measure of Trade in General*, *Money* does not acquire any *Intrinsic Value* from the Stamp. For be the Material, *Gold* or *Silver*, it has no other *real Value*, than in Proportion to its Weight and Fineness; and *Money*, may be said to be bought by, and sold for other Commodities, as well as other Commodities are said to be bought by, and sold for *Money*.

The same may be said of the different Species of *Money*, when compared together: For, as *Gold* and *Silver* do reciprocally measure one another, so the raising the Denomination of the Coin made of either of these Metals, may indeed,



deed, give it a greater *Imaginary Estimation* in the Country where it is thus enhanced, but it can by no Means encrease its *real Value* in the *Trading World*.

This is plainly proved by daily Experience; and it is certain, that if *Money* made of *Gold*, be in one Country of greater proportional Value to the *Money* made of *Silver*, than it is in other Countries; a greater Quantity of *Gold* will be poured into the *current Cash* of the Nation, but instead thereof, the *Silver* Coin will be drained away; and the same may be said of *Silver Money*, when it exceeds the Price of *Gold*.

That in Fact it is thus, I may refer my Reader to a Consideration of the present State of the *Cash of Ireland*, and he will find, that ever since the Reduction of *Guineas* in *Great Britain*, from twenty one Shillings and six Pence, to 21 Shillings, we have been gradually losing our *Silver* Coin, until at length we are almost deprived of our *Silver* Species; and this proceeds from the *disproportioned Value* of the *Silver* and *Gold* Coins of *Ireland*, compared with those of *Great Britain*.

For 100 *l.* of *Silver Money* in *England*, is equal to 108 *l.* 6 *s.* 8 *d.* in *Ireland*, and 100 *l.* of *Gold* in *England* produces 109 *l.* 10 *s.* 6 *d.* in *Ireland*, so that the *disproportioned Value* of the *Gold* Coin in *Ireland*, to the *Silver* Coin, is 1 *l.*

3s. 10d. on an 100l. *English*, which is a Difference great enough to have the Effects we see on the Current Cash of the Nation; and this Consideration alone, will make it plain to every Capacity, how necessary it is that there should always be an Equality of Value, preserved between the different sorts of Coin that constitute the Current Cash of every Nation.

That this Disproportion between the Value of *Gold* and *Silver* is obstructive of Trade, is evident from Experience; and I believe it will readily be allowed, that the Consequences would prove yet more Fatal, if the Disproportion be created between the Coins of those Metals, and *Tokens* made of *Copper*, or any other Metal of inferiour Value: And this Mischief will be increased in Proportion to the Difference, between the *Imaginary* and *real Value* of the Coins, compar'd with those of other Countries.

For, let us give what Name we will to our Coin, and let us raise it to ever so high an imaginary Estimation, it is most certain, the real Value of it, is not, by that Means encreased; but that it will always be considered by other Nations, only according to the Fineness and Quantity of the Metal it is composed of: So that a Nation that is unhappily led into such Mistakes, is greatly deceived, and Foreigners have thereby an unavoidable Opportunity given them, of drawing  
away

away its Riches, by their superior Skill in Matters of this Nature.

It has already been said, that *Gold* and *Silver* are the Metals, of which *Money* is made, to serve as a *general Measure of Trade*; and they are the only Metals that have that universal Esteem set on them. Yet it was found necessary in all Countries, to have Coins made of baser Metals, in order to serve for small Payments: But those Coins never obtained the Credit of being esteemed among the *common Measures* of Trade.

It is true, that in some Countries, the Currency of their *Copper Money*, is enforced in a certain Proportion of Payments, but in *England* and *Ireland*, Tokens made of *Copper*, were never accounted lawful Money, yet for Convenience, they are allowed to have a Currency.

It seems therefore necessary, (since so base a Coin, may, by any Means obtain a Currency) That the Coinage of *Copper Money*, should be performed by publick Authority, and with the same Cautions of the *Silver* and *Gold* Coinage. And it is a Matter most proper to be taken into the Care of Sovereigns, whose Interest it is, never for any private Advantage, to overstock their Countries with this sort of Coin, which is made  
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of a Metal not universally accepted, as the Measure of Trade.

Upon the whole Matter, the Care of the Coin of every Nation, is absolutely necessary, in order to avoid being over-reach'd by other Countries, in the Course of Trade, and also to set a just Value on *distinct Properties*.

It ought not therefore to be admired, that we are *under great Apprehensions, from the Importing and Uttering Copper Half-pence and Farthings in Ireland, by Virtue of the Patent, granted to Mr. Wood.* For if it takes Effect, the Copper Money of *Ireland*, will bear too great a Proportion to the lawful Money of the Kingdom; and (tho' the Terms of the Patent shou'd be strictly complied with) would have an imaginary Estimation, so much above the real Value of the Metal; that it would of Necessity, *prove highly Prejudicial to his Majesty's Revenue, Destructive of the Trade and Commerce of the Kingdom, and of dangerous Consequence to the Properties of the Subject*; which I hope to prove undeniably, by what I shall say on this Occasion.

To shew, *That the Copper Money made by Virtue of this Patent, hath not a just Proportion of Intrinsick Value:* It is only necessary to observe, that by the Patent, every Pound of Copper is allow'd to be coin'd into 30 Pence;

and this is the *imaginary Value*, that is set on this Quantity of Copper when made into Half-pence and Farthings. Now the *real Value* of the Metal, (supposing it to be of the fineness, requir'd by the Patent) is at most only twelve Pence, and this is the *Intrinsic Value* of thirty Pence in Tale, of this Coin. So that the Difference between the *real* and *imaginary Value* of this *Copper Money* is, as 2 to 5, or 60 *l.* loss in 100 *l.*

But perhaps it will be objected, that *Copper Money*, is in all Countries of less Worth, than the Denomination that is given to it; and that therefore it is unfair to make an exact Scrutiny into the Difference between the *imaginary Value* set on such Species of Money, and the *real Value* of the Material. The first we allow, but at the same time affirm, that there is no trading Nation in the World, that would not be considerably affected in its Trade, if there should be a greater Quantity of *Copper Money*, of less intrinsic Value than the Species of *Gold* and *Silver*, thrown into the current Cash of the Nation, than what is absolutely Necessary for small Payments. And if the power of uttering such base Coin be unconfined, it may in the End, utterly Ruin the Trade of the most flourishing Countrey in the World.

For

For this Reason, in all Countries, the Copper Coinage is under, or should be under, the immediate Direction of the State, for when that Care is taken, it cannot be suppos'd, that any greater Quantity of such base Coin, will be poured into the current Cash (which is the great Evil to be apprehended) than what is absolutely Necessary, for managing the Business of the Nation; and this, the Exigency of the People, gives a Demand for, and a natural Currency to: So that when there is only such a Quantity of Half-pence and Farthings Current, as are accepted in Payments, for the conveniency of Trade; People receive them without making a nice Enquiry into their intrinsick Value; especially when every one hath a sufficient Security, that he shall not lose by them; because, that as the Prince takes the Benefit of the Coinage to himself, so, it is but reasonable to expect, he must accept the same Coin in Payments, to be made into the Exchequer.

Whereas, in the Case of this Patent, the Matter is otherwise: For as the Power of the Coinage is granted to a private Person, we must apprehend he'll have only his own Interest in View; and that he will always pursue it, though at the Expence of the Publick. He will therefore supply, not only what the Exigencies of the People may require, but also force into the Trade of the  
Coun-

Countrey, as much of his Coin, as he can put out of his Hands, with any Advantage to himself. And in order to do this, he will be able to allow large *Premiums* to those who will undertake to disperse his Tokens amongst the People, which he can afford to do by their wanting (as hath been already shewn) of *Intrinsic Value*. By which Means, the Countrey will be overstock'd with this *base Coin*, and then, tho' too late, its real Value will be found out, since that is the only Method those Persons will have of being re-imbursed, who may be unfortunately seduced to part with their Gold and Silver, or valuable Commodities for it. For, indeed, it would be highly unreasonable, that the publick Revenues should stand as a Security, for making good a Species of Money, coined by private Persons; which ought not to be expected, but when the State receives the Benefit of the Coinage.

And conformable to this good Policy, our Kings never granted any Power and Privilege of Coining Copper Half-pence and Farthings to private Persons, without taking sufficient Security, to prevent the great Mischief of having more of such base Coin introduced, than was necessary for carrying on the Business of the Nation. Thus in the Patents granted by King *Charles II.* and King *James II.* there is a Clause whereby it is  
pro-

provided, *That the Patentees should deliver unto any of the Subjects of Ireland, that shall find themselves surcharged in the ordinary Course of their Trade, with more of the said Copper Half-pence, than they can conveniently utter for their Use or Occasions, the Sum of Twenty Shillings Sterl. in Current Money, for every Sum of Twenty Shillings in the said Copper Half-pence, and so after that Rate for all greater or lesser Sums, &c.* In consequence of which Clause, the Patentees established Persons in several Cities of the Kingdom, to exchange their *Copper Half-pence for Current Money\**.

This Clause was a most excellent Security against this great Mischief, which is so justly apprehended from Mr. *Wood's* Patent. For the Patentees were tied down by *their own Interest*, not to pour in more of this Copper Money, than was necessary for carrying on the Trade of the Kingdom, lest if their Coin came into Discredit, (as undoubtedly it must, if the People found themselves *Surcharged* with it, in the ordinary Course of their Trade) it should be all pour'd back again, and by that Means overwhelm their Project.

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\* I am credibly inform'd, that, in consequence of this Clause, Sureties were enter'd by Recognizance in the Exchequer of *Ireland*.



But in Mr. *Wood's* Patent, there is no such Clause, and therefore he will have no other Care about the Copper Money, than to pass it out of his Hands; and in order to do this, he will make use of what Means he can to force it into the Trade of the Nation, which is Manifest from part of Mr. *Finlay's* Evidence, before the Lords of his Majesty's most Honourable Privy Council in *Great Britain*, whereby that Gentleman declares he had contracted with Mr. *Wood* for 50,000*l.* of his Money at 30 *per Cent* Discount.

Which Contract shews, Mr. *Wood* was resolv'd to dispose of more of his Copper, than there was a natural Demand for. For to dispose of what was only necessary for the use of the Kingdom, the very Exigency of the People would naturally take it off his Hands, without any *Premium*. But his allowing 30 *per Cent* Discount (or really any Discount at all) in the Beginning of his Coinage, shews he propos'd to force more than was Necessary; and it is easy to conceive he would increase the *Premium*, in Proportion as the Market would be glutted, and the difficulty of dispersing his Coin, would be augmented; and thus the People would be brought into that great Evil of being *Surcharged*, with this base Money, without any Possibility of being ever relieved.

But

But, perhaps, some People may imagine, that it is not absolutely necessary, *Money* should be made of *Gold* or *Silver*, but would perform the same Uses, if made of *Brass*, *Copper*, *Tin*, or any thing else, that had an imaginary Value assign'd it by the Will of the Prince. Such Notions as these might pass well enough, with Regard to a Countrey to which the rest of the World is unknown, or at least where no Commerce with Foreigners is allow'd. There indeed, it would be no Matter whether the *Money*, or what passes Current in it as *Money*, were *Brass*, or *Leather*, or *Shells*, or any such trifling Matter, provided the same may procure the People all the Necessaries their own Country affords; and that Foreign Conveniencies and Commodities are entirely unknown to them. But to imagine, that it were indifferent to use *Copper* or *Brass*, instead of *Gold* and *Silver*, in a Country that has *Traffick* with other Nations, is a most extravagant Fancy; for Foreigners can only esteem the *Money* of any Nation, according to its *determin'd Intrinsic Value*, and not with Respect to any *Nominal Value*, one particular Nation gives it.

Therefore the Mischiefs of Mr. *Wood's* Coinage, must be consider'd, as they arise from the want of *Intrinsic Value* in the Coin, (which *Intrinsic Value* alone can give *Money* an uni-

versal Currency;) and from the Disorders which necessarily attend the having too great a Quantity of such *Base Money*, in the current Cash of the Nation; and these are to be computed, according to the *Quality* and *Quantity* of this Coin attempted to be utter'd among us.

If Mr. *Wood* shou'd be contented to Coin 360 Tons of *Copper*, which he is allow'd to do by the Patent, yet, as this Quantity alone would amount to 100,800*l.* and that the *Intrinsic Value* of the Metal is but 40,320*l.* it appears, that there is by this Means alone a *real Loss* to the Nation of 60,480*l.* *tho' the Terms of this Patent had been strictly comply'd with:* For, as has been said before, the Patent allows 30*d.* to be coin'd out of every Pound of *Copper*, and the *Intrinsic Value* of the *Copper* is but 12*d. per* Pound; wherefore there will always be a Defect of three Fifths in whatever Sum is coin'd upon these Terms.

And, *that the Loss would be much greater, in the Manner the said Half-pence have been coin'd,* most manifestly appear'd from the *Assays* made, and laid before the Houses of Parliament in *Ireland*; whereby it was prov'd, that some of those *Half-pence*, that were imported, with an intent to be utter'd in this Kingdom, run 72 to the Pound; at which Rate the 360 Ton  
would

would amount to 120,960*l.* and the *immediate Loss* to the Nation would be 80,460*l.*

It must be confess'd, that either of those Sums, *is a Loss greater than this poor Country is able to bear*, or any the most flourishing Country would willingly bear, to gratify the Avarice of any undeserving Person whatsoever: Yet this is a Trifle, if compar'd with the Mischiefs that would ensue: For if the Loss of either of these Sums, was the only Evil, it would then be determin'd, and might perhaps be repair'd, by subsequent good Management: But in case this *Copper* had, thro' the *Avarice* of some, and the *Indolence* of others, obtain'd a Currency among us, the Mischiefs of it would daily encrease, until at last the whole Affairs of the Nation wou'd be reduc'd to a deplorable Condition.

This will easily be conceiv'd, if it be remember'd, that the Difference of 1*l.* 3*s.* 10*d.* between 100*l.* Value of *Gold Coin*, and 100*l.* Value of *Silver Coin* of this Kingdom compar'd with that of *England*, has had that Effect; that the greatest Part of our *Silver Money* is, by that Means already taken out of the Country; and in a little Time (it is apparent) the whole Silver Species must be drain'd away, if a timely Remedy is not apply'd to it: With much more Reason therefore, we ought to apprehend

the fatal Consequences of this Patent, whereby there is a Difference of 60 *per Cent.* created, between the *Imaginary Value* of this Copper, and the *lawful Money* of the Kingdom. For, tho' in the Case of our *Silver Coin*, we lose it to our Disadvantage, yet the *Gold* that is brought instead thereof, amounts to near its *real Value*: But Mr. *Wood* being able to allow large *Premiums*, for dispersing his *Money*, if it had obtain'd any Credit among us, and the *Exchequer* had been permitted to support that Credit, we had reason to apprehend, he would by Degrees force in such Quantities of his Coin, as would draw away our *Gold* and *Silver*, and leave instead of them his *base Money*.

But, suppose Mr. *Wood* to be so strictly honest, as to keep within the Terms of the Patent (which we have undeniable Reasons to believe he is not) and that barely 100,000*l.* shou'd be forc'd into the Kingdom, according to the Terms of the Patent: I shall consider the great Mischief, which even such a Quantity would bring to the Nation; tho' I think it most plain, that, by Counterfeits and other ways, much greater Sums wou'd be introduced, before we could be sensible of them. And to do this, I must re-mind my Readers, that such a Sum of 100,000*l.* of this Coin, would be, in *real Value*, equal to, only 40,000*l.* of *lawful Money*.

In

In order to state this Matter rightly, I shall make use of some *Schemes*, that may be accepted, as exact enough to form any Reasonings upon; and which determine the Number of Inhabitants in *Ireland*, their Annual Expence, and the Means of their Subsistence.

The Inhabitants of *Ireland*, are computed at *Two Millions* of Souls, and their Expence one with another, at *5l. per Annum* for each Person, which will make the Annual Expence of the Inhabitants amount to 10,000,000*l.*

*This necessary Expence is thus supply'd.*

The Rental of *Ireland* is *per Annum* 1,600,000

The natural Increase of Cattle, and  
the Product of the Land by Hus- } 3,200,000  
bandry, &c. *per Annum*

And there is supply'd by other In- }  
dustrious Arts, Manufactures, } 5,200,000  
Trade, Commerce, Navigation, }  
&c. about *per An.*

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10,000,000

To give Life to this Business, we have, as is generally computed, about 500,000*l.* of ready Money in the Kingdom, which would not be sufficient, were it not that *private Credit* serves instead of Money, and may be call'd *Artificial Money*, and this is computed equal to 1,000,000*l.*

which added to the *Natural Money*, makes 1,500,000*l.* with a less Sum than which, it is hard to conceive how the Business of the Kingdom can be managed. And it's manifest, that the Rents and Product of the Land, the Labour and Industry of the People, are all measur'd by this Money: But this Money is of no greater *Intrinsick Value*, than Comparative with the Money of other Nations.

Now the *real Money* of this Nation is 500,000*l.*  
 Of which you may suppose, that  
     there remains of former Coinages } 25,000*l.*  
     in *Copper Money*, the Sum of  
 And, if there should be imported by }  
     Virtue of Mr. *Wood's* Patent in } 100,000*l.*  
     *Copper Money*, even only

The *Copper Money* of *Ireland* would be 125,000*l.*  
 So that, of *Gold* and *Silver Money*, } 375,000*l.*  
 we must at most, have but

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500,000*l.*

Thus, this *unwieldy Copper Coin* would be one fourth Part of the *Real* or *Natural Coin*; and it's easy to conceive this disproportion'd Quantity of *Brass Money*, would be a Clog to the whole Business of the Nation; for as the *real Value* of this *Base Money* bears a Proportion to the *Imaginary Value* of it, but as 2 to 5,  
 it

it is certain, Men of Understanding, would make the same Difference between it, and the *Gold* and *Silver* Current in the Kingdom.

Wherefore this Difference diffusing it self through the whole Species of *Copper Money*, tho' the *Nominal Value* of it should be suppos'd to be 125,000*l.* yet in *real Value* it would be only equal to 50,000*l.* so that the want of *Intrinsic Value* in the *Copper Coin* is 75,000*l.*

Which must have an Influence on the whole Cash of the Nation, and consequently create a Diffidence among the People of *Ireland*, which even the bare Apprehensions of it has already, in some Measure, effected, whereby at least, one fifth Part of the present Credit in the Country would be abated, and that is equal to } 200,000*l.*

In all, to be deducted from the }  
*Natural* and *Artificial Money* of } 275,000*l.*  
 the Nation.

So that, instead of a running Cash and Credit, for managing the general Business of the Kingdom to the Value of 1,500,000*l.* we should only have 1,225,000*l.* that is, the *Cash*, and *Credit* of the Nation would be lessen'd of its present Value, by more than one sixth Part.  
 And



And since the Lands of *Ireland*, and the Encrease of them, the Labour and Industry of the People, (which are their whole Support) must all Sink in their Value, in Proportion, as the *Intrinsick Value* of the Money and Credit of the Nation are abated; it may be better conceiv'd than express'd, what the sad Consequences of this wou'd be.

We may be convinc'd of the Mischief attending such a Mixture in the *Current Cash*, if we please to examine the deplorable Condition *England* was falling into about the Years 1694. and 95, by Means of Part of the *Silver Coins* being debas'd by Clipping. To this Practice it was owing, that *Credit*, both *Private* and *Publick*, was put to a Stand; for by this Means a Traffick was carry'd on, of exchanging the *Intrinsick* Riches of the Nation, with the Money so debas'd: Infomuch, that the *Legislature* was necessitated to interpose, and the *Silver Money*, that was subject to this Disorder, was call'd in at the publick Expence, and re-coin'd.

Yet these great Disorders and Mischiefs were produc'd from no other Cause, than the *Silver's* being only clipp'd, whereby that *Proportion of Value* was destroy'd, which is so necessary to be maintain'd between the current Coins of all *trading Nations*. But in those Pieces of *Silver* there was, *at the worst*, a greater Proportion

portion of *Intrinsic Value* left, than is to be found in the *best Copper Money* of Mr. Wood. Which, considering the *Poverty* of the People of one Country, compared with the *flourishing Condition* of the other, must abundantly sooner Influence us, than it could them: And it is allowed by every Body, that the *clipp'd Money* was an Evil, which, if not remedied, would have destroy'd the *Trade of England* in a short Time, and was a Distemper of that Consequence, that it required the utmost Skill of as *Great a King* and as *Wise a Council* as ever *England* had, to remedy it.

How necessary was it then for our *Poor Nation* to be careful not to involve it self in the like, nay, in greater Confusions! Was it for us to Encourage the bringing in of a Parcel of *Copper Counters*, to pass instead of Money? And because they are call'd *Half-pence* (when in Reality, they are but *fifth Parts of Pence*) shall we receive them for our valuable Goods, our *Gold* and our *Silver*?

Perhaps, indeed, we should not be immediately sensible of the Evils, that would naturally attend this *Project*, as the *Bubble* seldom is of the Misfortunes he is falling into, until the *Sbarper* has made his whole Advantage of him: Yet, it is beyond all Doubt, the Effects of it would in Time destroy us. This must be granted  
by

by any one, who considers, as has been prov'd, that the People of *Ireland* would be depriv'd of at least one sixth Part of their present Means of Subsistence; and it is evident, this is an Evil of such a Nature, as would in Time destroy any *Trading Country* whatsoever.

Should ever the Affairs of *Ireland* be reduc'd to this Pass, the *Revenue* can never be suppos'd to produce as much, as it does now. That must *Rise* and *Fall* in Proportion, as the Country grows *Rich* and *Populous*, or becomes *Poor* and *dis-peopled*: So that upon the whole Matter it must appear to all intelligent Persons, that, as these are the natural Consequences of introducing this *base Money* among us, so, *the Importing and Uttering the Copper Farthings and Half-pence, made by Virtue of the Patent granted to William Wood, will prove highly Prejudicial to his Majesty's Revenue, Destructive of the Trade and Commerce of the Nation, and of most dangerous Consequence to the Rights and Properties of the Subject.*

But, perhaps, it may be said, that since the Patent *doth not inforce this Currency of the Copper Money*, but hath left it, *to be receiv'd by such only, as would Voluntarily and Wilfully accept the same*; why should all these Complaints be made against the Patent, and the Patentee? And why should we raise to our selves such  
frightful

frightful Ideas, of the Consequences which may attend this Project?

To this it may be answer'd, that the Patent is in that Part of it, *Just*, or rather *not Bad*, as it does not endeavour to take our *Liberty* from us; but surely, that does not hinder, but we may find such Faults with the Project, as it deserves, and shew the evil Consequences to the Nation, if the People shou'd be induc'd, to take a Quantity of these *Half-pence*, by any *Stratagems* or *Arts* whatsoever.

And since our *Houses of Parliament* have in the Wisdom of their Counsels observ'd these Mischiefs, it might have been expected, that such Deference would be paid their Opinion, as that we should never see the Testimony of Three or Four *obscure Men*, put, any where, in Balance with the *Resolutions* and *Addresses* of the Representatives of so *Great a Nation*.

But the Matter has prov'd otherwise, and we have Reason to apprehend, that still there *may* be Attempts made, to enforce a Currency of this Coin. Several of those Methods did appear to the *Parliament*. They were well acquainted, that Mr. *Wood* allow'd *great Premiums* (as he could well do) to those, who should undertake to disperse his Money; and they were aware such Temptations would have Power with Self-interested Men. They saw, with *Grief*, that  
some

some Parts of the Patent might by a *forc'd Construction* be explain'd to intend, that this *Copper Money* should be accepted in Payments to the *Crown*; and they very justly concluded, that if such *Premiums* were allowed for dispersing these *Tokens*, and that there should be so secure a Market for them as the *Exchequer*, it would be difficult to prevent their obtaining a Currency among us; therefore as *Dutiful and Loyal Subjects*, and as *true Patriots* of their Country, they first represented the great Apprehensions they had of Danger from this Patent, and then, in order to avert the Evil, beseech'd *his Majesty* to direct, that this *Coin should not be receiv'd by the Officers, entrusted with the Receipt of his Revenue.*

As the *Great Council* of the Kingdom, it became them to do so: For it is their Duty to enquire into every thing that may disturb the *Publick Tranquillity*; and whatever Dangers they find Threatning, they are obliged to acquaint the King with them. Nor can there be a greater Instance of Respect to *his Majesty*, than, thus humbly to Address his Throne, to pray him to give Orders to his Ministers, to prevent the Destruction of his People, by so mild and just a Method, as forbidding them to allow a Currency to these *Half-pence* in the *Exchequer*; which all Men know, was only beseeching

befeeching his *Majesty*, to Order the *Officers of his Revenue*, to act conformable to the *Laws of the Land*.

It is therefore the Duty of every particular Person of this Nation, to concur with the Endeavours used by *our Parliament*, to avert the *Evil* of this Coinage; and since we have a Right to refuse *this Coin*, let every one of us *continue* to reject it, and let us not be tempted by Views of *private Advantage*, to involve *our Country*, in the Miseries which must of course be brought upon it, if this *Brass Money* should obtain a Currency among us. The good Consequences that have *already* attended the Opposing of this Patent, ought to Encourage us in *Persevering* in it: For since the Quantity allow'd by the Patent to be coin'd, is already reduc'd to 40,000*l.* we have reason to expect, upon a *continued unanimous Opposition* to the Patentee and humble Application to *his Majesty*, it will be wholly laid aside.

But, before I conclude, I shall beg leave to compare the Patent for Coining *Copper Money* for *Ireland*, granted by King *Charles* the II. and afterwards renew'd to Mr. *Knox* by King *James* the II. with this granted to Mr. *Wood*, and to examine the *Affay* made of Mr. *Wood's* Coinage in the Tower of *London*, upon the Considerations of both which, the Lords of the Council

Council of *Great Britain*, ground their Reasons, in their Report to his Majesty, for justifying Mr. *Wood's* Patent.

It has been said, and the Lords of the Council of *Great Britain* seem to believe, *That the Care and Caution made use of, in this Patent granted to Mr. Wood, by proper Conditions, Checks and Comptrols, have effectually provided, that the Copper Money coin'd for Ireland by Virtue of this Patent, should far exceed the like Coinages for Ireland, in the Reigns of his Majesty's Royal Predecessors, and this, they say, is evidently prov'd by the Tryals and Assays made of the Fineness, Value and Weight of this Copper Money, and the Goodness thereof, compar'd with former Coinages of Copper Money for Ireland.* But before I examine this *Assay*, I will compare the Patents, in some of their Circumstances together.

Mr. *Wood*, by his Patent, has a Power given him of Coining 360 Tons of *Copper* for *Ireland*, and he is allow'd to make thirty Pence out of every Pound Weight of *Copper*. By the Patent granted by King *Charles II.* and renewed by King *James II.* to Mr. *Knox*, the Patentees had Liberty to coin such Quantities of *Copper Half-pence*, as they could conveniently Issue, and they had Liberty to make 32 *d.* out of a Pound of *Copper*. In this Mr. *Knox* seems to have had

the Advantage of Mr. *Wood*, in as much as he had Liberty of coining two Pence more, out of a Pound of *Copper*, than Mr. *Wood* has; but it will appear far otherwise, if we consider, that in the Time of the former Coinages, *Copper*, of the same Fineness, with what is now worth in *Ireland* 12 *d.* per Pound, could not be bought for less than 18 *d.* per Pound. According to which Difference in the Price of the Material, the Patent granted to Mr. *Wood*, ought to have regulated his Coinage at 26 *d.* per Pound of *Copper*, and he would have had the same Benefits, that were allow'd to the Patentees by the former Patents.

But Mr. *Wood* is allow'd to make 30 *d.* out of a Pound of *Copper*, therefore, he has a superior Advantage given him of 4 *d.* per Pound, which, upon 360 Tons, amounts to 13,440 *l.* And hereby it is plain, the Patent granted to Mr. *Wood*, is not equally advantagious to the People of *Ireland*, with that granted to Mr. *Knox*.

But, further, let it be suppos'd, that the Comptroller appointed by Mr. *Wood's* Patent, takes effectual Care of the Goodness, and Fineness of the *Copper*, of which his *Half-pence and Farthings* are made: Yet the Care taken in the former Patents, was more effectual; for, tho' there was no express Provision made, for the



*Goodness and Fineness of the Copper*, yet there was a more effectual Remedy provided against all the Mischiefs, that could attend that Coinage, as appears by the Clause of Mr. *Knox's* Patent, which is already mention'd *Page 209.* which was an effectual Remedy against *the pouring in too great a quantity of Copper Money*, which is the great Evil to be dreaded. And thus, the former Patentees were bound by their own Interest, to take Care of the *Quality* of the *Half-pence*, and *Quantity* to be utter'd; whereas Mr. *Wood* is not properly restrain'd, having no more to say to his *Half-pence and Farthings*, after they have once pass'd the Comptroller's Inspection. And of what little Security this Restriction is on him, I shall hereafter have occasion to take Notice.

It is also worth observing, that, in the Patent granted to Mr. *Knox*, there is a farther Care taken, that that Coinage should not prove Mischievous to the People of *Ireland*; for his then Majesty did *Covenant and Promise*, that if, during the Term thereby granted, it should fall out to be convenient, for the Good of his Subjects, that any *Alteration* should be made in the Metal, or in the Stamp of the said Copper Half-pence, that, in such Case, he would Authorise by Proclamation, such *Alteration*, as should be found Fit and Convenient: Whereby it is plain, that,

that, by this Patent, a Power was still reserv'd in the Crown, to prevent, by Proclamation, any Evil Consequences, that might have attended that Coinage, which, it's manifest, was only intended *for the Good of the Subjects of Ireland.* Whereas we are told, that by the Patent to Mr. *Wood*, his Majesty has divested himself of all Power of relieving his Subjects, from the Dangers of this Coinage, unless it be by a Writ of *Scire facias*; and if it be really so, it would seem, as if this Patent was, rather a Grant in Favour of the Patentee, than for the Good of the People of *Ireland.*

It has been also said, *that the Money coin'd by Virtue of the Patent granted to John Knox, is made, and declared to be Current Coin of the Kingdom of Ireland.* I have therefore very carefully examin'd that Patent, and I cannot find it contains any Thing, that can be explain'd this way; only the Clause, whereby it is *ordained that the Copper Half-pence, made by Virtue of the said Patent, should pass, and be generally used, between Man and Man, as Money for the value of Half-pence.* But this is not an attempt to inforce a Currency of this Coin, or to make it *lawful Money*, contrary to the *known Laws* of the Kingdom. It is only a Licence, *that those Half-pence shall be used generally between Man and Man;* and this will appear to have been

the Intent of the Patent, on reading the Clause mentioned in Page 209, wherein a Difference is made, between this *Copper Money*, and the *Current Money* of the Kingdom; which Difference would have been unnecessary, if it was intended, that the *Copper Money* should have been made the *Current Money* of Ireland.

And the whole purport of the said Patent confirms this Opinion: For in the Clause immediately following that which I have just now cited, his Majesty declares, that *to the intent that just Exchange (which is provided for in the former Clause) may be maintained, and consequently all Inconveniencies avoided, which might otherwise happen to his Subjects, contrary to his gracious Intention and Meaning; his Will and Pleasure therefore is, that there be from Time to Time, a convenient Quantity of the said Half-pence, sent to as many Cities, Burroughs Corporate, and Market-Towns, and other Places within the Realm of Ireland, as the Patentees shall think fit, and necessary for the Use and Occasions of the People of Ireland, and the same Copper Half-pence, to be left in the Hands of some discreet Person or Persons in the said Cities, &c. together with sufficient Means, for the Rechange of the said Half-pence. And when his Majesty, in the same Patent, Wills and Requires his Chief Governors, &c. for the Time being,*

to Endeavour, that the said Copper Half-pence, may freely Pass in Use, between Man and Man, it is expressly said, in the way of Exchange, as is before express'd. Whereby it is manifest, that it was never intended, this Coin should be made the *current Money* of the Kingdom: But was only to pass *by way of Exchange*, as is before express'd; that is, the Patentees to *Exchange* them for *Gold* and *Silver*, (which are the only *lawful Money* of this Kingdom) whenever the same would be requir'd, and this the *Chief Governors*, &c. were commanded by the said Patent to see duly perform'd.

I must beg leave further to Remark, that the Patent granted to Mr. *Knox*, was order'd to be enroll'd in the Rolls of the *High Court of Chancery* in *Ireland*, whereas this granted to Mr. *Wood*, is enroll'd in *England*; and tho' this may seem no material Difference, yet I cannot forbear looking upon it, as a Matter of very great Consequence; for it is a Question, whether a Writ of *Scire facias* will lie in *Ireland* against this Patent, and it seems very agreeable to Reason, that a Tryal on such a Writ, if the Patent could not be any otherwise vacated, ought to be had in *this Kingdom*, rather than in *England*. But this, and the Inconveniencies that might attend such a Tryal, in case it could be had in *Ireland*, on this Patent granted under the Great

Seal of *England*, and enroll'd in that Kingdom, I must leave to the Consideration of those who are learn'd in the Laws of the Land.

Upon the whole Matter, I think it plainly appears, that the Patent granted to Mr. *Wood*, is not equally Beneficial to the Kingdom of Ireland, with the former Patents; and that from the foregoing great and essential Differences, whereby it seems sufficiently justified, that Care and Caution was not used in granting the Letters Patent to Mr. Wood.

And now I shall Examine the Assay made of Mr. *Wood's* Coinage, in the Tower of *London*; and to do this the better, I shall beg leave to annex a Copy of the Report thereof, to these Papers.

By this Report, it is Evident, that there was but one Species of Mr. *Wood's* Half-pence Assay'd, viz. those which were coin'd between the 25th of *March*, 1723. and *March* 28th 1724. bearing on the Reverse, *HIBERNIA* sitting with a *Harp* by her left Side, and the Date of the Year. These might have the Qualities certified, and the Fraud charg'd on the Patentee still subsist. For the Assays made in *Ireland*, and laid before the Houses of Parliament, in the Month of *September*, 1723. were on different Species imported into *Ireland*, in order to be utter'd, and most of them were  
coin'd

coin'd in the Year 1722, as appears by their Dates, and several of the Impressions on the Reverse, were different from the Species that was try'd in the Tower of *London*.

The Persons concern'd in the Assay made in *Ireland*, were examined by a Committee of the *whole House of Commons* in a most solemn Manner; a Method not observed, on the other side the Water.

And, to the End there should be no Ground given, for an Imputation that light pieces were pick'd up for the Tryal in *Ireland*, but that the same should be made with all the Candor imaginable; I am well assured, that the Assay made in *Ireland* was proved by several Tryals on large Parcels of Mr. *Wood's Half-pence*, then lying in the Stores of his Majesty's Custom-House in *Dublin*, which were imported from *Bristol*: So that this Assay made by Order of *the House of Commons of Ireland*, can't with any Shew of Reason, be call'd in Question, but certainly carries better Evidence of Truth with it, than any other Assay whatsoever.

By this Assay it appear'd, that *Half-pence* of four different Impressions, and of much less weight, than was required by Patent were imported into *Ireland* before *September, 1723*, of which Specimens are in the Custody of the Clerk of *the House of Commons*. But there was only one

sort produced before the Gentlemen employ'd to make the Assay in the Tower of *London*; which could not have happen'd, if the Comptroller had perform'd his Duty; for then he would have taken *Tryal Pieces* out of each different Parcel that was coin'd during the whole Time, and then the *different Impressions and Dates* would have appear'd, to the Gentlemen who were appointed to make the Assay in the Tower of *London*.

But this having, in all appearance, been contrived, by Mr. *Wood* and his Accomplices, in order to deceive the Lords of the Council, as in Effect it has done, it may be allow'd that other Contrivances that could serve to the same End, were put in practice: And then, it is natural to believe, the *heaviest Pieces* were chosen out of Mr. *Wood's* Coinage, for this Tryal.

But Mr. *Wood* has imposed on the Lords of the Council in another most material Point, and in this too the Comptroller is very deeply concern'd with Mr. *Wood*: This will appear by comparing the Report of the Committee of Council, with the Report of the Assay. In the former it is said, " That the Comptroller's Account of the Quantities of *Half-pence and Farthings* coin'd, agreed with Mr. *Wood's* Account, amounting to 59 Tuns, 3 Hundred, 1 Quarter, 11 Pound, and 4 Ounces;" Where-

as by the Report made of the Assay it appears that, "from Lady-day 1723, to the twenty-eighth of *March* 1724, there was that Quantity coin'd."

From hence it is plain, that no Account has been return'd of the Coinage in the Year 1722, and the Lords of the Council were made to believe that the Quantities of *Copper* coin'd amounted in the whole only to the aforesaid Weight, and in Tale to 17,000 *l.* whereas by the Report of the Assay it appears, that Quantity and Sum was coin'd between the Twenty-fifth of *March*, 1723, and the Twenty-eighth of *March*, 1724.

And seeing that the Patent was enroll'd in the Rolls of the High Court of *Chancery* in *England*, on the 12th Day of *July*, 1722, the Patentee had full eight Months to coin in, before the 25th of *March* 1723: In which Time, at the Rate of 100 Tuns for the first Year, as prescrib'd by the Patent, he must have coin'd 66 Tuns at least, which at 2 *s.* 6 *d.* per Pound amounts to 18,480 *l.* and this was intirely withheld from the Knowledge of the Lords of the Council, so that Mr. *Wood* had coin'd 35,480 *l.* in Tale, when he and the Comptroller pretended there was only 17000 *l.* coin'd.

Now, this has been an Imposition of a most high Nature, and it is enough to demonstrate,  
that



that there is little Expectation, of ever being able to set Limits to a beneficial Coinage, entrusted in private Hands, by the Means of any Comptroller; and therefore all Proposals from Mr. *Wood* of limiting his Coinage to 40,000 *l.* or to any other Sum, are Amusements that wise Men will never be deceiv'd by.

I must further beg leave to remark, that, tho' it is said in the Report, " That the *Half-pence* and *Farthings* coined by Mr. *Wood* when compared with the *Copper Money* coined for *Ireland* in the Reigns of King *Charles II.* King *James II.* and King *William* and Queen *Mary*, considerably exceeds them all in Weight, &c." Yet this is no Way to be consider'd in the present Question.

For it is of no Consequence to examine the intrinsic Value of our present *Half-pence*, because, as the People of *Ireland* are not *surcharg'd* with them, they are generally esteemed for the Conveniency of making small Payments, and, until this Attempt of Mr. *Wood*, we have not been in Danger of being *surcharg'd* with *Copper Money*; but when this Danger, of having a disproportioned Quantity brought in, did threaten us; it was then, as has been already said, the Concern of every Body to compute the Mischiefs that might attend it, by the Want of intrinsic Value in the Coin.

Upon

Upon this Matter of the Assay made of Mr. *Wood's Copper Money*, I must also take Notice, that tho' the *Copper* of which Mr. *Wood's Half-pence* are made, should be allow'd to be, of the same Goodness and Value with that, of which the *Copper Money* is coin'd in his Majesty's Mint for *England*; yet the Quantity of Money that is allow'd to be coin'd out of a Pound of Copper for *Ireland*, is not in a just Proportion to what is coin'd for *England*.

For, if the same Proportion that is observ'd between the *Silver Money* of each Nation, was maintained in the Copper Coin, then there ought not to be made out of one Pound of Copper for *Ireland*, but 25 Pence and Two thirds of a Penny. For as 24 Pence of Silver Money of *England*, yields 26 Pence in *Ireland*, so 23 Pence, the Quantity of Half-pence made out of a Pound of Copper for *England*, is equal to 25 Pence and 2 thirds of a Penny, the Quantity that ought to be made for *Ireland*.

But as Mr. *Wood* has Liberty to make 30 Pence out of a Pound of Copper for *Ireland*, so he has an Advantage of 4 Pence, and 1 Third of a Penny on every Pound of Copper, more than what is got by the *Copper Coinage* for *England*; and this upon 360 Tuns amounts to 14,000 *l.* and by this Means, the Difference between the *Copper Money* of *England*, and the *Copper Money* of *Ireland*

*Ireland*, would prove 32 and a half *per Cent.* And as the Difference of the Value of Money, is one of the chief Reasons of the rising of Exchange between two Nations, it is manifest, that if this Coin of Mr. *Wood* had been forc'd upon us, the Exchange between *England* and *Ireland* would be raised at least 30 *per Cent.* whereas for some Years past, it has by a Medium kept at about 10 *per Cent.*

And if the Exchange should thus come to be raised, it would produce most fatal Consequences to the *Trade*, and generally to every other *Business* of the Nation.

That those of my Readers who are unacquainted with Matters of this Nature, may be able to judge of the Disadvantages, such high Exchange would produce: I must inform them, that the Causes of the Rise and Fall of Exchange, are, either the Variation of the Price of the Coin in any Country, or the Demand that happens to be in one Country, for Money in another, or, sometimes both these *Causes* meeting together.

Now, 'tis well known, that the great Number of *Irish* Landlords, the Pensioners and great Officers on our Civil and Military Establishments, who live in *England*; and the Income of our Post-Office, and some other Portions of publick Money, which are yearly remitted to that Country

try, do all together occasion a great Demand for Money in *England*: And if a Variation of our Coin should concur with this, it is easy to conceive that the *Exchange* would rise to the Height of the *greatest Difference* between the Money of *England* and *Ireland*.

It has been already shewn that the *Nominal Value* of the Silver Money in *Ireland*, compared to the Value of the Silver Money of *England*, is as 108,333 to 100, and *Gold* in *Ireland* compared to *Gold* in *England*, is as 109,525 to 100; so that the *Exchange* between *England* and *Ireland*, holding by a Medium, for some Time past, at 10 *per Cent.* confirms our Observation, that the *Exchange* must rise to the *greatest Difference* between the *Nominal Value* of our Coins. Wherefore as the *Brass* Money intended to be forced upon us by Mr. *Wood* (tho' he should make it conformable to the Rules of his Patent) would be 32 and an half *per Cent.* worse than the *Brass* Money, and near 70 *per Cent.* worse than the *Silver Money* of *England*; it is easy to conceive that the Price of *Exchange* between *England* and *Ireland*, would be raised to at least 30 *per Cent.* if this *Brass* Coinage should be allowed to take Effect.

So that, if in carrying on the *general Trade* and *Business* of the Nation, the Bills drawn between *England* and *Ireland* amount to 2,000,000*l.*  
*per*

Light, I hope they'll now appear in another manner, than they did to their Lordships.

For my part, I can never suppose, but the *Interest of England*, and that of *Ireland*, as now establish'd, should be so united, that it may always remain as a Maxim in Politicks, That *Ireland* cannot be destroy'd without bringing a most sensible Damage to the Affairs of *England*. And I'm persuaded, the Affection of *the King* is so very great towards his Subjects in this Country, that he never would willingly suffer them to be ruin'd by the Projects of *Avaritious Men*; nor can it enter into my Mind, that any of the *Ministers*, who are entrusted with the immediate Management of the Affairs of *Great Britain*, did advise the granting this Patent, out of a desire to hurt his Majesty's most dutiful Subjects of *Ireland*.

I'm rather of Opinion, that Mr. *Wood* found means, to make it be believ'd, that it was really for the Service of the People of *Ireland*, that this Patent should take place. And now, that it appears Mr. *Wood* has deceiv'd *his Majesty* in this Grant, those Ministers who (when they thought it was for the Good of this Kingdom) were most Instrumental in obtaining this Patent, will be the readiest (it is to be hoped) to cause it to be vacated, since it's manifestly destructive of the common Interest of *his Majesty* and *his Subjects*.

I shall conclude this Paper with a *Speech* made by Queen *Elizabeth*, in Answer to an *Address* of Thanks from the *House of Commons* of *England*, upon *her Majesty's* publishing a Proclamation, declaring several *Patents* to be *Null and Void*, which *she* had granted to private Persons who, (under the Colour of *Publick Good*, but in reality to the great *Damage* of the Kingdom) had obtain'd them, for the sole Privilege and Liberty of vending some particular sorts of Wares.

And when I have desired, it may be consider'd, that few *Princes* had asserted the *Rights of the Crown*, with a higher Hand than *she* did; I shall leave my Reader with this *Speech*, to make a proper Application of it. The *Speech* is as follows.

*Gentlemen,*

“ I Owe you my best Thanks and Acknow-  
“ ledgements for your Respect towards  
“ me, not only for your good Inclina-  
“ tion, but those clear and publick Expressions  
“ thereof, which have discover'd themselves, in  
“ retrieving me from a Mistake, into which I  
“ have been *betray'd*; not so much by the Faults  
“ of my Will, as the Error of my Judgement.  
“ This had unavoidably drawn a Blemish upon

R

“ me

“ me (who account the Safety of my People my  
 “ chief Happiness) had you not made me ac-  
 “ quainted with the Practice of those lewd *Har-*  
 “ *pies and Horse-Leeches*. I would sooner lose  
 “ my Hand or Heart, than ever consent to al-  
 “ low such Privileges to *Engrossers*, as may turn  
 “ to the *Detriment of my People*. I am not so  
 “ blinded with the Lustre of a *Crown*, as to  
 “ let the *Scale of Justice* be weigh'd down, by  
 “ that of an *Arbitrary Power*. The gay  
 “ Title of a *Prince*, may deceive such as know  
 “ nothing of the Secret of Governing, as a gild-  
 “ ed Pill may impose upon the Patient: But I  
 “ am not one of those *unwary Princes*; for I  
 “ am very sensible, that I ought to govern for  
 “ the *Publick Good*, and not regard my own  
 “ particular, and that I stand accountable to  
 “ another, a greater Tribunal. I account my  
 “ self very Happy, that by God's Assistance, I  
 “ have enjoy'd so *prosperous a Government* in  
 “ all Respects, and that he has blessed me with  
 “ *such Subjects*, for whom I could be contented  
 “ to lay down my Crown and my Life. I must  
 “ intreat you, that, let *others* be Guilty of  
 “ what Faults or Misdemeanours soever, they  
 “ may not, through any Misrepresentation, be  
 “ laid at my Door. I hope the Evidence of a  
 “ good Conscience will, in all Respects, bear me

“ out. You cannot be Ignorant, that the *Ser-*  
“ *vants of Princes*, have too often, an Eye to  
“ their own Advantage; that their Faults are  
“ often concealed from their Notice, and that  
“ they cannot, if they would, inspect all Things,  
“ when the Weight and Business of a whole  
“ Kingdom, lies on their Shoulders.







A Copy of the *Report* made by Sir *Isaac Newton*, *Ed. Southwell*, and *John Scroope*. Esqrs; of the *Assay* made of Mr. *Wood's Copper Money*.

*To the Right Honourable the Lords Commissioners of his Majesty's Treasury.*

*May it please your Lordships,*



ACCORDING to your Lordships Order, the *Pix* of the *Copper Money* coined at *Bristol* by Mr. *Wood* for *Ireland*, has been opened, and tryed before us, at his Majesty's Mint in the Tower: And, by the *Comptroller's Account*, to which Mr. *Wood* agreed, there has been coined from *Lady-day*, 1723, to *March*, 28th, 1724. in Halfpence, 55 Tons, 5 Hundred, 3 Quarters, and 12 Ounces; and in Farthings, 3 Tons, 17 Hundred, 2 Quarters, 10 Pounds, 8 Ounces, Averdupois; the whole Coinage amounting to 59 Tons, 3 Hundred, 1 Quarter, 11 Pounds, and 4 Ounces. And by Specimens of this Coinage, which have from Time to Time been taken from several

veral Parcels coined, and sealed up in Papers, and put into the *Pix*; we found, that 60 *Half-Pence* weighed 14 Ounces Troy, and 18 Penny Weight, which is about a quarter of an Ounce, above 1 Pound Weight Averdupois; and that 30 Farthings weighed 3 Ounces, and 3 Quarters of an Ounce Troy, and 46 Grains which is also above the Weight required by his Patent. We found also, that both *Half-pence* and *Farthings*, when heated red Hot, spread thin under the Hammer, without Cracking, as your Lordships may see by the Pieces now laid before your Lordships. But altho' the Copper was very good, and the Money one Piece with another was full Weight, yet the single Pieces were not so equally coined, in the Weight, as they shou'd have been.

We found also, that 32 old Half-pence coined for *Ireland*, in the Reigns of King *Charles II.* King *James II.* King *William III.* and Queen *Mary*, and produced by Mr. Wood, weighed 6 Ounces and 8 Penny Weight Troy, that is 103 Grains and a half a Piece, one with another. They were much worn, and if about 6 or 7 Grains be allowed to each of them, one with another, for loss of their Weight by wearing, the Copper Money, coined for *England*, in the Reign of King *William*, being already as much lightened by Wearing,

they might at first weigh about half a Pound Averdupois, whereas 30 of those coined by Mr. *Wood* are to be of that Weight. They were also made of bad Copper. Two of those coined in the Reign of King *Charles II.* wasted much in the Fire, and then spread thin under the Hammer, but not so well without cracking as those of Mr. *Wood*. Two of those coined in the Reign of King *James II.* wasted more in the Fire, and were not Malleable when red Hot. Two of those coined in the Reign of King *William* and Queen *Mary*, wasted still more in the Fire, and turn'd to an un-malleable Substance, like a Cinder; as your Lordships may see by the Pieces now laid before you.

By the *Assays*, we reckon the Copper of Mr. *Wood's* Half-pence and Farthings, to be of the same Goodness and Value with the Copper, of which the Copper Money is coined in the King's Mint for *England*, worth in the Market, about 12, or 13 d. *per* Pound Weight, Averdupois. And the Copper of which the Half-pence were coined for *Ireland*, in the Reigns of King *Charles*, King *James* and King *William*, to be much Inferior in Value, the Mixture being unknown, and not bearing the Fire, for converting it to any other use, until it be refined,

The *Half-pence* and *Farthings* in the *Pix*, coined by Mr. *Wood*, had on one Side the Head of the King, with this Inscription, GEORGIUS DEI GRATIA REX, and on the other Side, a Woman sitting, *with a Harp by her left Side*, and above her, this Inscription, HIBERNIA, *with the Date*. The *Half-pence* coined in the Reigns of King *Charles*, King *James* and King *William*, had, on one Side, the Head of King *Charles*, King *James*, or King *William* and Queen *Mary*, and on the Reverse, a Harp crowned.

All which Facts, we most humbly Represent to your Lordships. *April, 27th, 1724.*



PROMETHEUS



# PROMETHEUS,

A

# POEM.



WHEN first the *'Squire, and Tinker Wood*  
Gravely consulting *Ireland's Good,*  
Together mingled in a *Mafs*  
*Smith's Dust, and Copper, Lead and Brass;*  
The Mixture thus by *Chymick Art,*  
United close in ev'ry Part,  
In Fillets roll'd, or cut in Pieces,  
Appear'd like one continu'd Species,  
And by the forming Engine struck,  
On all the same IMPRESSION stuck.

So to confound this *hated Coin,*  
All *Parties and Religions* joyn;

*Whigs,*

*Whigs, Tories, Trimmers, Hanoverians,*  
*Quakers, Conformists, Presbyterians,*  
*Scotch, Irish, English, French unite*  
*With equal Int'rest, equal Spight,*  
 Together mingled in a Lump,  
 Do all in *One Opinion* jump;  
 And ev'ry one begins to find,  
 The same IMPRESSION on his Mind;  
 A strange Event! whom *Gold* incites  
 To Blood and Quarrels, *Brass* unites;  
 So Goldsmiths say, the coarsest Stuff,  
 Will serve for *Solder* well enough.  
 So, by the *Kettle's* loud Alarm,  
 The *Bees* are gather'd to a *Swarm*:  
 So by the *Brazen* Trumpet's Bluster,  
 Troops of all Tongues and Nations muster:  
 And so the *Harp* of *Ireland* brings  
 Whole Crowds about its *Brazen* Strings.

There is a *Chain* let down from *Jove*,  
 But fasten'd to his Throne above;  
 So strong, that from the lower End,  
 They say, all humane Things depend:  
 This *Chain*, as Ancient Poets hold,  
 When *Jove* was Young, was made of *Gold*.  
*Prometheus* once this *Chain* purloin'd,  
 Dissolv'd, and into *Money* Coin'd;  
 Then whips me on a *Chain* of *Brass*,  
 (*Venus* was brib'd to let it pass.)

Now

Now while this *Brazen Chain* prevail'd,  
*Jove* saw that all *Devotion* fail'd;  
 No *Temple* to his *Godship* rais'd,  
 No *Sacrifice* on *Altars* blaz'd;  
 In short, such *dire Confusions* follow'd,  
*Earth* must have been in *Chaos* swallow'd.  
*Jove* stood amaz'd and looking round,  
 With much ado, the *Cheat* he found;  
 'Twas plain he cou'd no longer hold  
 The *World* in any *Chain* but *Gold*:  
 And to the *God of Wealth*, his *Brother*,  
 Sent *Mercury* to get another.

*Prometheus* on a *Rock* is laid,  
 Ty'd with the *Chain* himself had made;  
 On *Icy Caucasus* to shiver,  
 Where *Vultures* eat his growing *Liver*.

Ye *Pow'rs* of *Grub-street*, make me able,  
 Discreetly to apply this *Fable*.  
 Say, who is to be understood  
 By that old Thief *Prometheus*? *WOOD*.  
 For *Jove*, it is not hard to guess him,  
 I mean *His M*——*God blefs him*.  
 This *Thief* and *Blacksmith* was so bold,  
 He strove to steal that *Chain* of *Gold*  
 Which links the *Subject* to the *King*,  
 And change it for a *Brazen String*.

But sure if nothing else must pass  
Between the *K*— and us, but *Brass*,  
Altho' the *Chain* will never crack,  
Yet *Our Devotion* may grow *Slack*.

But *Jove* will soon convert, I hope,  
This *Brazen Chain* into a *Rope*;  
With which *Prometheus* shall be ty'd,  
And high in Air for ever ride;  
Where, if we find his *Liver* grows,  
For want of *Vultures*, we have *Crows*.







To the worthy AUTHOR of the  
*Draper's* LETTERS, by a Youth  
of Fourteen Years of Age.

**H**ALL! mighty Man, whose unexhausted Spring  
Affords thee Matter on the dullest Thing;  
Whose piercing Pen explain'd thy puzzling Theme,  
Procur'd us Safety, and extoll'd your Name.  
As *Thracian Orpheus* by his moving Lays  
Caus'd rigid *Oaks* to bend in former Days;  
So your prevailing Pen not only cou'd  
Pull down an *Oak*, but overthrow a *WOOD*;  
Whilst with superiour Majesty you shine,  
And not the Bays alone, but all the Groves are thine.  
You high upon th' *Aonian* Mountain sit,  
Imperial Judge of everlasting Wit,  
Whilst we below upon thy Honours gaze,  
Like dazled *Indians* on *Phœbean* Rays,  
Extolling thy inimitable Name,  
Whilst Sympathetick Rocks resound your Fame.  
You soon foresaw, but vanquish'd with your Style,  
Th' impending Ruin of your native Isle.  
Thus *Tully* once preserv'd the *Roman* State,  
When *Rome* had like to fall by *Ilium's* Fate.

In vain our brazen Foe exprefs'd his Gall,  
He loft his Sting, and only rofe to Fall,  
Thus Fogs and Vapours in a Cloud arife,  
And foaring, dim the far-opposing Skies.  
But foon returning to their Native Earth,  
Sink in that Mafs, from whence they took their Birth.

But thou, O! Mortal of immortal Fame,  
Have on his Ruin built thy rifing Name:  
*Alcides* thus his Funeral surviv'd,  
And, by his Conquering Hell, to Heav'n arriv'd.





NEW  
SONGS

Sung at the CLUB at

Mr. *TAPLIN's*

The SIGN of the

DRAPIER's HEAD in *Truck-Street.*

---

*—Exegi Monumentum Ære perennius.*

HORAT.

---

By Mr. WITHERAL.

SONG I.

I.

**W**ITH brisk merry Lays,  
We'll Sing to the Praise  
Of that honest Patriot, the *Drapier*;  
Who, all the World knows,  
Confounded our Foes,  
With nothing but Pen, Ink, and Paper.

II.

A Spirit Divine,  
Ran through ev'ry Line,  
And made all our Hearts for to caper:

He

He sav'd us our Goods,  
And Dumfounder'd *Wood's* ;  
Then long Life and Health to the *Drapier*.

III.

We ne'er shall forget,  
His Judgment, or Wit,  
But Life, you must know, is a Vapour ;  
In Ages to come,  
We well may presume,  
They'll Monuments raise to the *Drapier* ;

IV.

When Senators meet,  
They'll surely think fit  
To Honour and Praise the good *Drapier* ;  
Nay, Juries shall join,  
And Sheriffs combine,  
To thank him in well-written Paper.

V.

You Men of the *Comb*,  
Come lay by your *Lomb*,  
And go to the Sign of the *Drapier* ;  
To TAPLIN declare,  
You one and all are,  
Kind loving good Friends to his Paper.

VI.

Then join Hand in Hand,  
T' each other firm stand,  
All Health to the *Club* and the *Drapier* ;  
Who merrily meet,  
And Sing in *Truck-Street*,  
In Praise of the well-written Paper.



S O N G II.

By Mr. CHARLES SHADWELL.

Since the *Drapier's* fet up, and *Wood* is cry'd down,  
Let *Ballads* be made by the *Bards* of this Town;  
To thank the brave *Drapier* for what he has done.  
*Which no Body can deny, brave Boys, which no Body can deny.*

When a Project to ruin this Nation was laid,  
To Drain all our *Gold*, and give *Brass* in its stead;  
The *Drapier* he writ, and knock'd all on the Head.  
*Which no Body can deny, &c.*

His Advice he address'd to Men of all Ranks,  
Which Timely supported our *Trade* and our *Banks*.  
And no doubt the next *Session* he'll have publick *Thanks*,  
*Which no Body can deny, &c.*

But who could imagine that some *Men in Place*,  
Were for bringing this *Drapier* to *Shame* and *Disgrace*;  
Because he had writ upon too nice a *Case*:  
*Which no Body can deny, &c.*

That a *J*—of this Country should use all his *Skill*,  
To prevail on a *J*—y for finding a *Bill*;  
And dissolve them because they thwarted his will.  
*Which no Body can deny, &c.*

In vain are a<sup>ll</sup> Offers the *Drapier* to take,  
This Kingdom ne'er cherish'd a *poisonous Snake*,  
And *Informers* are *Wretches* all Men will forsake.  
*Which no Body can deny, &c.*  
And

And for the good Things he has brought to pass,  
We here for a Sign have set up his Face;  
And wish we cou'd set up his Statue in *Brafs*.  
*Which no Body can deny, &c.*

Then, *Taplin*, fill out a *Glas* of the best,  
And let the King's Health be drank by each Guest,  
Let it shine in his Face and glow in his Breast.  
*Which no Body can deny, &c.*

For *Carteret's* Merit a *Bumper* prepare,  
Whose faithful Report of our Loyalty here,  
Has baffled our Foes and remov'd all our Fear.  
*Which no Body can deny, &c.*

The Protestant Int'rest Abroad and at Home,  
Our Friends in this City, and those on the *Comb*,  
Shall be pledg'd by all Members in this Club and Room.  
*Which no Body can deny, &c.*

Make haste, honest *Taplin*, and bring to'ther Pot,  
The *Drapier's* good Friends must not be forgot,  
While you have good Liquor, or we have a Groat.  
*Which no Body can deny, brave Boys, which no body can deny.*



### S O N G III.

By the Reverend Dr. THOMAS SHERIDAN.

O F a worthy *Dublin Drapier*  
My purpose is to speak,  
Who for no private Interest,  
But for his Country's sake,

S

By

By virtuous Honour led,  
Egregious Hazards run;  
And so he set his Country free,  
Could more have undergone.

II.

Twice was he persecuted,  
By Traitors to the State;  
And twice, by Virtue guarded,  
He did their wiles defeat.  
Seek all the World about,  
And you will hardly find  
A man for Honour to excel  
Our gallant *Drapier's* Mind.

III.

For he was bred in *Dublin*,  
The chief of Men was he;  
From thence, sent o'er to *London*,  
A Prentice for to be:  
A Banker near the Court,  
Did like his Service so,  
That a warm Farm, in his own Land,  
He did on him bestow.

IV.

When back again to IRELAND  
This worthy *Drapier* came,  
He cast about most nobly,  
T' advance its Wealth and Fame:  
And had the simple Natives  
Observ'd his sage Advice,  
Their Wealth and Fame some years ago,  
Had reach'd above the Skies.

V. For

## V.

For oft he them admonish'd  
 To mind the draping trade,  
 And wear no manufactures  
 But what *themselves had made*.  
 But whilst by thoughtless Mortals  
 His Schemes neglected lay,  
 Some Foes unto their Country's weal,  
 His Person would betray.

## VI.

When thus her Sons turns Enemies,  
 What Nation free can last?  
 And now, to quite enslave us  
 A Champion over pass'd.  
 In *copper Armour* clad,  
 A *wooden Tool* of Might,  
 Who, by his *boast* of Power, did  
 All *Ireland* affright.

## VII.

With just disdain, the *Drapier*  
 Beheld his brazen Pride,  
 He could not hear, with patience,  
 How he our Laws defy'd:  
 Forgetting former wrongs,  
 Unto our Aid he flew,  
 And, with *resistless Courage*, he  
 This Giant overthrew.

## VIII.

But, oh! the curs'd Ingratitude  
 Of some! (no matter where)  
 Let all their names in history  
 With Infamy appear.



For, to reward his Love,  
 In saving of their land,  
 They plotted *to deliver him*  
*Into the traitor's hand,*

## IX.

The *Drapier*, at this Treatment  
 Was not a whit dismay'd ;  
 But, for his Countrey's Safety,  
 More than his own, afraid :  
 He bravely sent 'em word,  
*He'd stand the brunt of all,*  
*If they would but secure the Land,*  
*From Wood's Jad brazen thrall.*

## X.

Thus doth our gallant *Drapier*  
 His Trade, and all, expose,  
 To save the Land from *Foreign*,  
 And from *Domestick* foes :  
 Who, their own turn to serve,  
 Most basely would agree  
 To bring us in *dependence*,  
 Who are, by Nature, free.

## XI.

For he hath shewn, most clearly,  
 We can't be free by halves ;  
 And those to Subjects *subject*,  
 Can be no less than Slaves  
 As yet, no Acts we've made,  
 And grant we never may,  
 To give our brethren title  
 To their *pretended* Sway.

XII.

Then with your constant Praises  
The *Drapier's* Name adorn,  
Whilst those who wou'd betray him,  
Deserve the utmost scorn :  
In honouring his worth,  
Let grateful Friends be found ;  
And with his Health, next to the King's,  
Let glasses go all round.



S O N G I V.

NOW we're free by Nature,  
Let us all our Power exert ;  
Since each humane Creature  
May his Right assert.  
(Chorus.) *Fill Bumpers to the Drapier,*  
*Whose convincing Paper*  
*Set us, gloriously,*  
*From Brazen Fetters free.*

His warm Zeal inspir'd us  
To withstand our Country's Fate,  
Whilst his Writings fir'd us,  
E'er it was too late.

A true *Roman* Spirit  
Fir'd our mighty Hero's Breast :  
By him, we inherit  
What can make us blest.

*Fill Bumpers, &c.*

*Fill Bumpers, &c.*  
Thus

Thus he, bright in story,  
Like great *Nassau* once before,  
Freed us all with glory,  
What could mortal more?

*Fill Bumpers, &c.*

All friends to the *D R A P I E R*,  
Who revere his worthy name,  
In honour to his *P A P E R*,  
Sing his lasting fame.

*Fill Bumpers, &c.*

Thus, ye Sons of Pleasure,  
Who at *T A P L I N*'s weekly sing,  
In alternate measure  
Loudly let him ring.

*Fill Bumpers, &c.*



## S O N G V.

**W**HEN *WOOD* had like t' have taken root,  
And canker'd all the Nation,  
The *D R A P I E R* soon oppos'd his Suit,  
And stemm'd his Innovation.

As when by *Winter*'s hoary chains  
The *Meadows* are involved:  
When *Phæbus* shines upon the plains,  
They're by his rays dissolved.

So, when the *Drapier* did maintain  
Our cause, to whom we're Debtors,

The

The Fire of his heroick vein.  
Destroy'd our brazen Fetters.

Our Liberty by him's restor'd ;  
*Wood's* foil'd by his own Rapier ;  
Nor owe we more to *Nassau's* Sword,  
Than to *his Pen and Paper.*

Amidst his Foes, the Hero (full  
Of Rage) out-bray'd the danger ;  
And hence, the brazen-footed Bull  
Was sent to Rack and Manger.

Toss off your Bumpers, raise a Song,  
He ne'er shall be forgotten ;  
*His Name* shall charm each list'ning Throng,  
When *Wood* is dead and rotten.

Let Healths go round ; cheer up, my Boys,  
And, whilst the Spirit moves ye,  
Devote the present time to Joys ———  
And Musick, as behoves ye.

Here, honest *TAPLIN*, spare no man,  
Go, fetch us t'other Bottle ;  
We'll dance like *Phæbus*, sing like *Pan*,  
And drink like *Aristotle.*





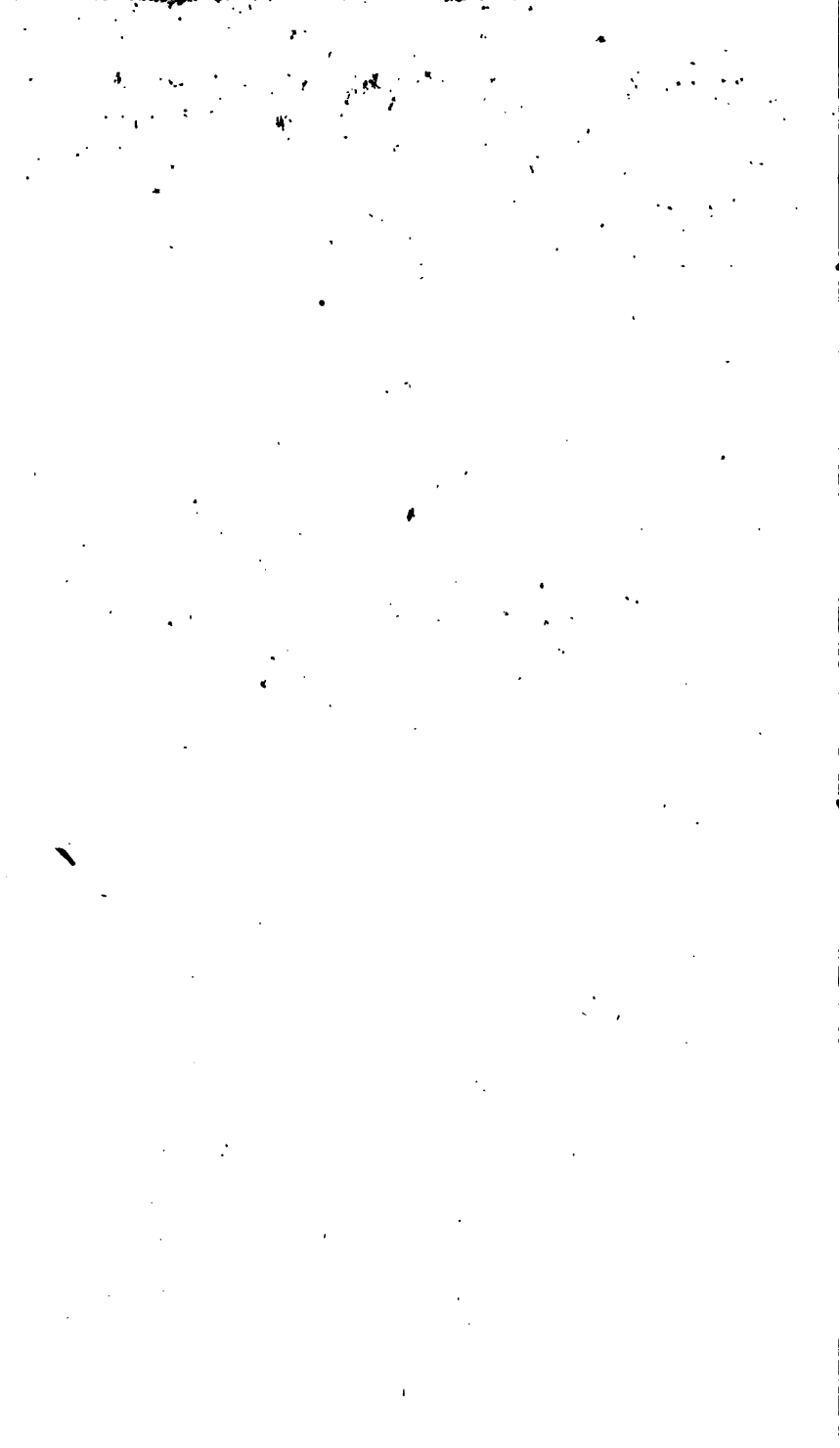
## DRAPIER'S Hill.

**W**E give the World to understand,  
 Our thriving Dean has purchas'd Land;  
 A Purchase which will bring him clear,  
 Above his Rent four Pound a Year;  
 Provided, to improve the Ground,  
 He will but add two hundred Pound,  
 And from his endless hoarded Store,  
 To build a House five hundred more.  
 Sir *Arthur* \* too shall have his Will,  
 And call the Mansion *Drapier's Hill*;  
 That when a Nation long en--v'd,  
 Forgets by whom it once was sav'd;  
 When none the **DRAPIER'S** Praise shall sing,  
 His Signs aloft no longer swing,  
 His Medals and his Prints forgotten,  
 And all his Handkerchiefs are rotten,  
 His famous **LETTERS** made Waste-paper,  
 This Hill may keep the Name of **DRAPIER**,  
 In Spight of Envy flourish still,  
 And **DRAPIER'S** vye with **COOPER'S** Hill.

\* The Gentleman of whom the Purchase was made.

**F I N I S.**









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